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Race to save the planet begins

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — World leaders ended their Earth Summit pledging to do their utmost to prevent environmental ruin and alleviate poverty. But as they left the meeting, described by the United Nations as the biggest gathering of heads of state and government, they were warned that the race to save the planet had only just begun. "If we have reason for satisfaction... we certainly do not have reason for complacency. The real measure of our success will be in what happens when we leave," Earth Summit Secretary-General Maurice Strong said in his final speech on Sunday. "Will this summit merely be a high point in our expressions of good intentions and enthusiasm and excitement or will it really be the start of a process of fundamental change we absolutely need?" Sunday's ceremony, briefly interrupted while Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello introduced football legend Pelé at the request of Solomon Islands' delegates, ended a 12-day meeting which mixed hard bargaining with high ceremony. Environmentalists and almost all nations said much of the summit had failed to live up to expectations (see resolutions on page 5).

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Tunisia outlaws human rights group

TUNIS (R) — The busy offices of the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH) were shut on Monday after the authorities said the group had been outlawed for refusing to comply with a new law on associations. The telephone goes unanswered at the headquarters of the most active human rights group in the Arab World. Formed 15 years ago, the league was dissolved because it refused to comply with a new government decree changing conditions of membership of associations. It had up until midnight on Saturday to open membership to all applicants and exclude members of political parties. The government says the new law is designed to open membership of associations to all and prevent political parties hijacking the groups. But human rights leaders accuse the authorities of making a plan to seize control of the league and limit its independence. "By refusing to comply with the law the LTDH is de facto dissolved since Saturday at midnight," an official source said. The league has "deliberately outlawed itself," the government daily La Presse wrote on Monday. A few hours before the deadline, the LTDH held a crisis meeting after which its president, Moncef Marzouki, announced it rejected the new law which it considered unconstitutional. The government said the new law was approved by the Constitutional Council, while the LTDH has appealed to an administrative tribunal in an effort to get the LTDH exempt from the new law. LTDH leaders contacted by telephone at home said they had agreed with Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel that they would cease activity without being forced to do so by the authorities.

Air chief warns Israel could attack potential nuclear facilities

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's air force chief Major General Herzl Bodinger said on Monday the Jewish state could attack any country which introduced nuclear weapons into the Middle East. "If we will have any kind of report that any country in the region is getting close to getting nuclear ability it should be looked after," he told foreign journalists. Asked if this meant an air strike such as Israel's 1981 bombing of Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor, Gen. Bodinger said it was possible if all else failed. "We should first try to work against (nuclear proliferation) by political means," he said. "And if that doesn't work we may consider an attack like (Osirak)."

Israel is widely believed by military experts to be the only country in the Middle East with nuclear weapons. Israeli officials will only say the Jewish state will not be the first country to introduce the weapons into the region. Gen. Bodinger, who took up his post in January, said Israel would have nuclear capability within a decade unless stopped. He said the United States was not doing enough to prevent Israel's neighbours and enemies from acquiring nuclear weapons. He said he had not based his warning on any specific intelligence but he singled out Iran, Syria, and Libya as potential threats to the Jewish state.

Supreme court rules U.S. government may kidnap foreign suspects

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court ruled Monday that the U.S. government may kidnap people from a foreign country and prosecute them over that nation's objection. By a 6-3 vote, the justices said an extradition treaty between the United States and Mexico does not prohibit U.S. officials from prosecuting a Mexican doctor at the highly publicised torture killings of a U.S. drug agent and the agent's pilot. The court refused to order Dr. Humberto Alvarez-Machain returned to Mexico. In a dissenting opinion, Justice John Paul Stevens said: "I suspect most courts throughout the civilized world will be deeply disturbed by the monstrous decision the court announces today." Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, writing for the court, said the kidnapping may have been "shocking... and in violation of general international law principles." But, he said, it is still up to the Bush administration and not federal judges to decide whether Alvarez-Machain should be returned to Mexico. The "abduction was not in violation of the extradition treaty between the United States and Mexico," Judge Rehnquist said. He was joined by Justices Byron R. White, Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy, David H. Souter and Clarence Thomas. Joining Stevens in the unusually strong dissenting opinion were Justices Harry A. Blackmun and Sandra Day O'Connor. Mr. Alvarez-Machain was abducted from his office in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 1990 and forced aboard a plane bound for El Paso, Texas, where he was arrested by U.S. officials and taken to California. He was charged with using his medical skills to keep Enrique Camarena alive while the Drug Enforcement Administration agent was tortured and interrogated in Mexico in 1985. Also killed was government pilot Alfredo Zavala Avelar. Nineteen persons, including Mr. Alvarez-Machain, were charged with taking part in the killings. The physicians has remained behind bars pending the outcome of his high court case. Mr. Alvarez-Machain, who never had been arrested before for any crime, has maintained his innocence. The United States and Mexico entered into an extradition treaty in 1980, but the U.S. government never asked Mexico's government to extradite Mr. Alvarez-Machain. Under the treaty, Mexico would have been obliged to prosecute the physician if it denied an extradition request. U.S. district Judge Edward Rafeedie in Los Angeles ordered Mr. Alvarez-Machain returned to Mexico, and the 9th U.S. circuit court of appeals last year upheld the ruling. The Bush administration appealed to the high court. Judge Rafeedie said the government offered a \$50,000 reward for the kidnapping of Mr. Alvarez-Machain, gave the go-ahead for the abduction and afterward relocated many of the kidnappers in the United States with \$6,000 a week in living expenses. Also, he ruled that Mexico's government formally protested the kidnapping to the United States and asked for the return of Mr. Alvarez-Machain.

Kidnappers free German hostages in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese kidnappers freed two German hostages in Beirut on Monday after 1,127 days in captivity, security sources said. They were the last Westerners held in Lebanon. The sources said Heinrich Struebig, 51, and Thomas Kempfner, 31, were handed over to Lebanese and Syrian security officials in Beirut shortly after a statement by the kidnappers said the two would be freed in 48 hours. The statement by the Freedom Strugglers which holds Mr. Kempfner and Mr. Struebig said: "The release of the Germans will take place within the next 48 hours at the headquarters of the Lebanese President (Elias Hrawi)." "We call on envoys of President Hafez Assad, the United Nations and the German government to be present at the headquarters before the specified time." The statement, sent to an international news agency and to Beirut An Nahar newspaper, was accompanied by one photograph of both Mr. Struebig and Mr. Kempfner wearing suits and smiling. The German aid workers are expected to be handed over to German officials in Beirut before being flown to Germany Tuesday. Mr. Struebig and Mr. Kempfner were seized in May 1989 in South Lebanon by followers of Abdul Hadi Hamadi, security chief of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and elder brother of Mohammad Ali and Abbas Hamadi jailed in Germany.

Kohl sees 25-year setback Rich EC states take tough line despite Thursday Irish vote

LUXEMBOURG (R) — Rich European Community governments stuck to a tough line on Monday against an early budget increase despite fears that it might drain support for the EC's union treaty in Thursday's referendum in Ireland. Portugal, which chaired the meeting of the 12 EC foreign ministers, sounded a positive note, aware that the Irish government has tried to woo doubters with promises of more cash from the community as a result of the Maastricht treaty. "The discussion that we had this morning... has been very positive and it shows clearly that all member states are committed to the objectives of Maastricht," Portuguese Foreign Minister Jose de Deus Pinheiro told a news conference. But he acknowledged that there were still differences on how to fulfil the objectives, including how quickly. If Ireland were to follow Denmark, which narrowly failed to approve the political and monetary union treaty in a vote two weeks ago, all hope of keeping it alive and trying to bring the Danes back into the fold later this year would be lost. Irish Foreign Minister David Andrews said before the talks he was confident of a victory in the referendum but told the meeting that more spending on poorer EC members was essential. "Genuine union must create conditions for reduction of economic disparities since you cannot create a genuine union without cohesion... narrowing the wealth gap would benefit all," a spokesman quoted him as saying. The budget package, named after European Commission President Jacques Delors, foresees a one-third increase in speeding commitments from 1993-97, a demand being resisted by the bloc's wealthier countries. German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Britain's Douglas Hurd both reiterated the hard line taken by their finance ministers last week, saying that the present limit on EC spending of 1.2 per cent of community GDP was adequate. Mr. Delors is seeking an increase to 1.37 per cent by 1997. Kohl warns In Bonn, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl predicted Monday that European unity would be delayed by 25 years or more if EC leaders failed to press ahead with further integration now. Mr. Kohl, addressing a meeting of his Christian Democrats (CDU), vowed to push at the European Community's Lisbon summit later this month for the EC to take in new members like Austria, Sweden and Finland by 1995. He admitted that EC leaders might not have clearly explained the complex Maastricht treaty, which Denmark rejected, but said they must now forge ahead to create a political union in this decade. "If we do not follow up German unity with the political union of Europe in these years, it will take at least 25 years or even more and they will be even more difficult years than the period from 1945 to the Maastricht treaty in 1991," Mr. Kohl told the CDU meeting. Delors likely to stay European Commission President Jacques Delors is likely to be reappointed for two years at this month's Lisbon EC summit, French European Affairs Minister (Continued on page 3)

Syria cuts defence spending

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Syria has reduced its defence spending in its 1992 budget as the hefty financial benefits it gained from joining the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq evaporate, the Middle East Economic Survey reported Monday. The respected oil industry newsletter, published in Nicosia, noted that in the budget announced May 27, Syria's spending on its military still remains the largest single allocation. It accounts for 27.12 billion Syrian pounds (\$2.41 billion at the official exchange rate), or 29 per cent of total expenditure of 93.04 billion pounds (\$8.27 billion). That "represents a significant containment of the national security budget," the weekly newsletter said. The reduction in the defence allocation reversed the trend of previous years, which rose from 26 per cent of the total in 1988 to 32 per cent in 1989, 35 per cent in 1990 and 39 per cent in 1991. MEES said "published spending allocations on items as sensitive as national security must be treated with caution as actual spending may be increased by external military aid and unpublished items." "But it is clear that the Syrian government is making some effort to contain military expenditure." The London-based Arabic-language Al Hayat newspaper reported in January that Syria was negotiating a \$2 billion arms deal for its air force and air defence with Russia. The amount is equivalent to the \$2 billion grant Syria received from Saudi Arabia for joining the allied coalition against Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The paper quoted unnamed Russian sources in London as saying the deal covered sophisticated MIG-29 and Sukhoi jets, and SA-10 and SA-11 air defence missiles. Moscow was Syria's main arms supplier for two decades before the Soviet Union collapsed.

Saussaa: Speech not decision of Libyan people's congress

SIRTE, Libya (Agencies) — The Secretary of Libya's General People's Congress said on Monday that a speech he made rejecting extradition of two airline bombing suspects did not indicate what decision the congress would take on the issue. Abderrazek Al Saussaa told reporters during a break in the congress: "My speech was an explanation of our positions in the past. But I cannot express an opinion on the issue because that is one of the subjects presented to the congress and on which it will issue a resolution." Libya's leader Muammar Qaddafi has charged the congress, a form of parliament, with deciding how to respond to Western demands that Libya hand over for trial two men accused of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988. The United Nations Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo on Libya two months ago because it failed to surrender the suspects. The "revolutionary committees" newspaper Al Jamahiriya, which has published special editions every day for a week attacking Libya's belief in Arab unity and demanding reconciliation with the West, roundly criticised Mr. Saussaa's speech the day after he delivered it. "The secretary of the General People's Congress, who is only an administrator in charge of a drafting committee, in reality represents only himself and so what he said in his speech opening the congress can in no way be considered a general position of the Libyan people," it said in an editorial. Mr. Saussaa admitted to journalists he was in charge of administration of the congress. The congress has divided into five sub groups including one on foreign affairs, which looked most likely to consider the Lockerbie crisis. Mr. Saussaa said the groups had finished work and their recommendations would be put to the full congress, perhaps starting late on Tuesday. Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mohammad Beshari, who is attending the congress, told reporters he could say nothing about its discussion on Lockerbie. Officials are taking the same line as Mr. Saussaa on Al Jamahiriya, saying it is simply a newspaper expressing its opinions but this seems an incomplete description. The newspaper, which is supposed to be weekly, has dismissed Mr. Qaddafi's vision of Arab unity, the core of his brand of revolutionary nationalism for the last 23 years, as a mirage. Yet its headquarters are in the closely-guarded Bab Al Azziziya barracks in Tripoli where Mr. Qaddafi has his office. Diplomats and many Libyans believe he sanctioned the articles and even wrote some of them to provoke debate on the country's policies. Another Libyan newspaper, Green March, said on Monday Tripoli now wanted to face the West alone since depending on others might further complicate things. "Libyans prefer now, by all measures, to face the Western countries alone, in other words, they prefer to postpone all their alliances and friendships with Arabs and non-Arabs believing that depending on others will further complicate things," Green March said. But it said Libya would not cut itself off from its Arab brothers on matter the outrage it felt at lack of Arab support in the face of Western-backed U.N. sanctions. In London, the British Foreign Office said Monday Libyan information about the IRA handed over to Britain last week is incomplete but "may prove helpful."

Opposition meets in Vienna today Aziz: Sanctions turned into anti-Iraq vengeance

ALGIERS, Algeria (Agencies) — Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq Aziz said Monday his country was applying "to the letter" security council decisions to no avail because U.N. sanctions have become a form of vengeance. Mr. Aziz met with Algeria's top leader, Mohammad Boudiaf, mainly to discuss the effects of the sanctions, which include an economic embargo of the country. Mr. Aziz carried a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, according to Algerian officials. The contents of the message were not revealed. He said later that Iraq has applied "to the letter" the decisions of the Security Council, "which refuses to make the slightest gesture toward lifting the embargo." The embargo, imposed to force Iraq from Kuwait then extended after the Gulf war, "has become a veritable form of vengeance on the Iraqi people which has chosen the road of independence," Mr. Aziz said. It was not known how long the Iraqi official was to remain in Algeria. This north African country tried to play a neutral role during the Gulf war, but refused to support an Arab League resolution condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and paving the way for foreign intervention and for Arab states to join the multinational force fighting Baghdad. Iraqi opposition activists, divided by ethnic, religious and ideological differences, meet in Vienna on Tuesday in an attempt to form a coordinated plan to topple President Saddam Hussein. Some 150 opposition figures from around 40 of Iraq's disparate opposition groups, including Kurdish rebel leader Jalal Talabani, are expected to attend the four-day conference. Conference organisers said potential cooperation had been hampered by links between several opposition groups and the governments of neighbouring states which have their own views as to who should replace President Saddam. "Some groups have tied their positions to that of either one or more regional governments, from Saudi Arabia, Iran or Syria," conference spokesman Laith Kubba told Reuters by telephone from his London office. Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war failed to dislodge President Saddam, whose forces have since put down revolts by the Kurds in the north and the Shi'ites in the south. More than 60 Iraqi groups seek President Saddam's fall, but so far there has been little coordination between them, with nationalist Kurds, Sunni Arab nationalists, Shi'ite fundamentalists and Christian Communists all jostling for position. Conference organisers said potential cooperation had been hampered by links between several opposition groups and the governments of neighbouring states which have their own views as to who should replace President Saddam.

2 'collaborators' killed in Gaza

OCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Masked assailants on Monday gunned down two Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israel, and soldiers blew up the home of an Arab stabbing suspect, wrecking at least one other house in the process. Israel also eased restrictions that barred tens of thousands of Gaza Strip workers from entering Israel since the stabbing death of an Israeli teenager May 24, permitting about 13,000 into the country Monday, Israeli reports said. The slayings of alleged collaborators, confirmed by the army, raised to 589 the number of Palestinians killed by fellow Palestinians during the 4 1/2-year uprising, most as alleged informers. Arab reports said the body of Fathi Abu Ghali, 33, was found Monday morning at Rafah in the south of Gaza, with 12 bullet holes. A note left next to the body claimed responsibility for the "Red Eagle," which is linked to the PLO's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. It accused Abu Ghali of being a collaborator, the reports said. Later Monday, Jamal Mustafa Astar, 41, was fatally shot in the head by Palestinian activists near a mosque in the Gaza town of Khan Yunis, the army said. Arab reports said the victim was accused of working with Israeli authorities. At least 931 Arabs have been killed by Israelis and 94 Israelis also have died during the uprising against Israel's 25-year military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. The demolition in Nusseirat refugee camp was Sunday night, hours after Israel's supreme court overruled an appeal by the family of stabbing suspect Fuad Abdul Atti Amran, 19. Mr. Amran was charged Sunday with the May 24 killing that killed Helena Rapp, 15, in the Tel Aviv suburb of Bat Yam. The family's appeal said its 12 members would be left homeless. Arab reports said three other homes next to the Amrans' were wrecked by the force of the blast, leaving a total of 25 other people without shelter. A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said only one other was accidentally damaged by the blast and apparently rendered uninhabitable. Human rights groups have repeatedly criticised the Israeli policy of destroying the homes of Arab suspects, but Israel claims the practice deters further violence. The restrictions eased Monday were rules that forced Israeli employers to pick up Palestinian labourers in Gaza. The workers, who must be 25 or older, can now be bused into Israel. The new entry rules have cut nearly in half the 30,000 Gazans who worked in Israel before last month's stabbing.

Germany beats Scotland 2-0

NORRKOPING, Sweden (R) — Germany beat underdogs Scotland 2-0 in an all-action Group 2 match Monday and firmly boosted their hopes of a semifinal place in the European Championship. Karl-Heinz Riedle and Stefan Effenberg scored the goals, one in each half, which lifted the German tally to three points from two games following Friday's 1-1 draw with the CIS. Riedle opened the scoring in the 30th minute at the end of a move involving Matthias Sammer and Jurgen Klinsmann. Effenberg added the second in the 47th minute with a lofted shot from the right of the area which floated in at the far post. Andreas Mochler and Thomas Haecker both hit the woodwork in the second half. Defeat meant elimination for Scotland, who were beaten 1-0 by the Netherlands in Gothenburg last Friday, in their first appearance in a European Championship finals. Meanwhile in Gothenburg the Dutch defending champions, needing a win to be sure of a place in the European Championship semifinals, could only manage a 0-0 draw with the CIS. The Dutch had the better scoring chances throughout but fine goalkeeping by Dmitry Kharin denied them victory. Kharin made a fine plunging save to keep out a header from midfielder Frank Rijkaard in the 48th minute.

Gorbachev criticises Palestinians

OCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev criticised Palestinians on Monday for siding with Iraq against the U.S.-led alliance in last year's Gulf war. "I must say I did not like the Palestinians' stance during the Gulf war. I think that much and they know it," he said. Mr. Gorbachev, 61, who was lined up with the allies but did not send troops to the conflict. "In my opinion they lost out because it's impossible to permit encouraging things that can topple not only this region but also the entire world," he told Israel radio. The Al Quds Palestinian newspaper criticised Mr. Gorbachev's stand on the Gulf war and on the Palestinian question. It hinted Arab leaders in the Israeli-occupied West Bank were opposed to meeting him.

3rd World news agencies meet in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — News agencies from some 60 non-aligned countries opened a six-day conference in Tehran on Monday with a call from Iran for Third World cooperation to reduce dependence on Western news "monopoly." President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani called for a "new order for exchange of news and information" to help the independence of Third World countries in a message to the sixth conference of the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP). "Today we observe that most realities are presented in a distorted way by the media of the arrogant powers," he said in the message read by an aide and reported by Iran's official IRNA news agency. "Many events are ignored and all of the information and news that these media distribute to us reflect the ideals and way of thinking of those elements at the service of money, gold and power," he said.

Iraq halts flights to Basra

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, its airspace sealed by U.N. sanctions, halted flights to the southern city of Basra to maintain aircraft, the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said on Monday. "The flights will stop from today and until further notice," Al Jumhuriyah said. It said the Iraqi Airways wanted to maintain its airlines. U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war forced the closure of the country's airspace to international flights. Iraq is allowed to operate two flights a day to Basra.

Kuwait says 420,000 mines removed

KUWAIT (R) — International teams have cleared 420,000 mines and 45,000 tonnes of ammunition in an operation in which 29 explosives workers have been killed, the head of Kuwait army engineers said on Monday. Colonel Saleh Al Ostaz was quoted by the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) as saying Kuwait would by the end of July 1994 be free of ammunition, explosives and mines left behind by the Iraqi army.

80 school children feared drowned

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A boat capsized in a south Indian river Monday and about 80 school children were feared drowned, Press Trust of India news agency reported. It said the accident occurred at Bangalore, 1,700 kilometres south of New Delhi in Karnataka state. No other details were immediately available.

New Yugoslav president elected

BELGRADE (R) — Dobrica Cosic, a Serbian nationalist, was elected president of the new ramp Yugoslav Federation on Monday, Tanjug news agency said. Mr. Cosic was the only candidate in a vote by the Yugoslav parliament. Western diplomats say the post of president is largely ceremonial because real power in the new Yugoslav federation formed by Serbia and Montenegro, lies with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Extremists battle Copts, Egyptian government in pursuit of political power

By Anthony Shadid
The Associated Press

ASSIUT, Egypt — The church towers rise as high as the mosque minarets in this bustling commercial and farming centre on the banks of the Nile, but there is little religious harmony in the streets below.

The city of three million people has a large, relatively prosperous Christian minority and a poor Muslim majority. It has become an unstable mixture.

The conflict pits Islamic extremists against Coptic Christians, and also against Egypt's largely secular national government.

Scores of people have been killed or wounded since the late 1970s as extremists turned increasingly to arms in their attempt to impose strict Islamic law.

In early May, Muslim gunmen killed 13 Christians and a Muslim who tried to intervene in a dispute over a house.

Gunbattles in ensuing weeks between extremists and security forces searching for the estimated 45 hit-and-run attackers have left one militant and three bystanders dead. Police said hundreds were arrested.

Officials and many Muslim residents blamed the May shootings on a family vendetta. Many Copts said, however, that it was the latest of several attacks in Assiut and the surrounding countryside that have put their community under siege.

"The government doesn't care about us and the officers say that we are the problem, that we start the trouble," said a mechanic in Assiut. Like most Copts interviewed, he would not list his name by used.

It is clearly impossible to talk to the militants in Assiut. They

do not trust outsiders and know security police are watching them.

Of the 58 million Egyptians, five to six million are Christian.

Until the middle of the century, Copts were the majority in Assiut, Egypt's third-largest city, 380 kilometres south of Cairo. As the population grew and many Copts moved away, a Muslim majority developed.

In 1981, when Muslim extremists assassinated President Anwar Sadat, others mounted a brief uprising in Assiut. One hundred people were killed, most of them policemen.

Mr. Sadat's successor, Hosni Mubarak, began a national crackdown on extremists. It continues to this day, but significant extremist activity persists against both Christians and security personnel.

In recent months there have been clashes in Cairo's working-class Imbaba district and the southern cities of Fayoum and Beni Suef. On June 8 in Cairo, Muslim extremists shot and killed Farag Fodah, a writer who was outspoken in criticising them.

Assiut University, where one student in three is Coptic, is a centre of activity by Muslim extremists. On campus, Coptic women are urged to wear the traditional Islamic head covering and seats are assigned according to sex in lecture halls. Women students report being harassed for "immodest" dress.

Eight Muslim students stormed a lecture hall in August 1991, brandishing bicycle chains and knives and demanding the right to speak to students. The university's new president, Mohammad Tahawi, expelled them.

"These groups have their own perspectives on sex, social activities and dress and the

final word on what is right, what is wrong and what should be done," said Mr. Tahawi.

In speeches and leaflets, the Jamaat Islamiya (Islamic Groups) call for a "return to Islam" and imposition of strict Islamic law.

The Jamaat circulated a leaflet 18 months ago, soon after extremists assassinated Parliament Speaker Rifaat Al Mahjoub and five members of his entourage. It attacked the government's "total refusal to base the life of the country and its people on the ideology of Islam and its perseverance in continuing on the path of secularism."

"If we are denied the pulpit, we will resort to the gun," the leaflet said. "Today, we are saying it with words. Tomorrow we will say it with rifles."

A statement given to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in May in the name of the Jamaat of Assiut said both Christians and Muslims must adhere to Islamic law and be punished equally for violating it.

It blamed Christian provocations for tension between Copts and the Islamic Groups, such as alleged Coptic attempts to convert Muslims, treatment of Muslim women in an "un-Islamic way" by Coptic doctors and shooting incidents.

Muslim militants cultivate support by advocating an "Islamic solution" to Egypt's economic problems and providing supporters with money, weapons and a sense of identity.

"These groups work like a mafia, but with an Islamic stamp," said Rifaat Al Said, a Muslim intellectual who writes extensively on religious extremism and sectarian strife. "They impose taxes, they use threats and they try to earn the obedience of the people."



FALASHAS DEMAND JUSTICE: Ethiopian Jews (Falashas), resettled with family members left behind in Ethiopia, treatment at par with all Israelis and housing, several things — recognition of the religious rights

An Israeli election campaign minus arguments and verve

By Ron Kampeas
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The candidate arrives at a half-full auditorium to the blare of canned music. He makes his speech and leaves, to polite applause. The crowd drifts off to eat ice cream.

This is an Israeli election campaign? Yes, but it's one of the most apathetic in memory, and the politicians are dismayed.

The argument and emotion that characterised past campaigns is lacking at rallies by the ruling Likud Party, the opposition Labour Party and small factions in the campaign for June 23 general elections.

Bina Barzel, a political reporter for the Yedioth Ahronoth daily who has covered elections since 1977, says the indifference is unprecedented.

"Both (main) parties have cancelled traditional election-eve rallies because they are afraid people won't come," she said. Yossi Ahimeir, spokesman for Likud, confirmed that fewer people were coming to rallies.

"Last week we held a rally in Kiryat Shmona and maybe 4,000 people came," he said. The town, on the Lebanese border, is known as a Likud stronghold. "We need to get at least 10,000 there."

The traditional high pitch of elections has also been lowered by stricter limitations on political advertising.

Parties may only publish one half-page ad per newspaper per day. State-owned television and radio are barred from showing candidates or broadcasting political propaganda during an election campaign, and parties share 30 minutes a day of television time for party commercials.

This time the rules are being more strictly enforced than ever before.

One sign of public apathy towards the campaign is that its most serious controversy so far was sparked by a non-politician whose influence does not extend beyond a small percentage of the electorate.

Rabbi Eliezer Shach, an elderly ultra-orthodox leader, raised a storm last week when he was quoted as saying that Sephardic Jews — those of Middle Eastern origin — were not mature enough for political leadership.

But even his comments, condemned as ethnically divisive by most politicians, failed to create the furor that followed similar remarks by Duda Topaz, a pro-Labour Party comedian, in the 1981 campaign.

"When Topaz called us hoodlums 10 years ago, people took to the streets," said Reuven Ben-Haroush, 42, a Sephardic Jew who owns a postcard shop. "With this shach thing, nobody really cares."

Smaller parties are hoping that the apathy will work in their favour.

Eti Korn-Ancr, a spokeswoman for the left-wing Meretz bloc, said: "We were amazed to find that young people were calling us, saying they were wavering between us and Tzomet," a right-wing party.

That wavering makes it apparent the young are seeking an alternative to the big parties since Meretz advocates giving up the occupied territories and Tzomet wants to annex them.

"The younger voters see both (major) parties as corrupt," Mr. Korn-Ancr said.

Mr. Ahimeir conceded he sees

a slight tilt to smaller parties, but would not go so far as to say the public was becoming apathetic.

"I think Israelis just campaign differently now. They like to come to home meetings (with candidates). I'm invited to meetings almost every night — and I'm not even a political leader."

Still Mr. Ahimeir concedes that the tone from Likud supporters is not as laudatory as it once was. "All I hear is grumping," he said, sounding worried.

"One guy in Ramat Hasharon (an upper middle class suburb of Tel Aviv) who has a house that would put Beverly Hills to shame — all he did was criticize," Mr. Ahimeir marvelled. "I mean, what more do people want?"

The lack of interest is apparent in many ways: Fewer car bumper stickers and fewer party posters plastered on houses. Likud and Labour booths in shopping centres used to be far apart to avoid arguments turning violent. Now, the booths are side by side in some places, and party workers are not even arguing.

Another indicator of apathy is polls showing a drastic drop in the audience for campaign ads shown on state-owned television.

Mr. Barzel said one reason for the lower-key campaign is that even party activists were exhausted. "Labour and Likud activists campaigned long and hard for internal party elections this year. Now, they are sick of repeating the old party lines."

"There is a further factor no one has mentioned yet," Mr. Barzel added. "We've always taken it for granted that we're crazier than other people. Maybe, finally, Israelis are becoming normal."

1992 pilgrimage ends with no serious trouble

By Ibrahim Al Magalteebe
Reuters

JEDDAH — More than two million Muslims who performed the annual pilgrimage to Mecca have started heading home, declaring this year's Haj a success.

Complaints from Iraq, Libya and some Iranians keen to discredit Saudi Arabia's conservative rulers have done nothing to dampen the satisfaction of the faithful who completed rites obligatory for every Muslim at least once in a lifetime.

The fuss abroad was hardly noticed here. This year's Haj was probably among the most peaceful and the smoothest ever, an Asian diplomat said.

Saudi media are carrying copious messages of appreciation from pilgrims and national Haj missions praising arrangements that allowed such a huge number of Muslims to carry out their religious duties without serious incidents.

Some pilgrims started to head home on Sunday at the end of the three-day Eid Al Adha which follows the main rites of the Haj, a pilgrimage in the footsteps of the Prophet Mohammed. Others were going to the Holy City of Medina to visit the Prophet's tomb.

Except for a couple of small fires, this year's Haj was free of the dramas that often punctuate the annual gathering of Muslims from around the world.

About 1,400 people died in a pedestrian tunnel stamped two years ago. More than 400 pilgrims, mostly Iranians, were killed in clashes with Saudi security forces three years earlier.

Record numbers took part in this year's Haj. Officials say more

than 1.1 million pilgrims came from abroad to join some one million from inside the kingdom.

Iraq on Sunday repeated charges that Iraqi pilgrims were mistreated and 10 died of neglect. The charges were denied by Saudi Arabia.

Tripoli's criticism of Riyadh for refusing to accept direct flights from Libya in contravention of U.N.-imposed sanctions are also dismissed by diplomats as trivial. And Iranian radicals have been told by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to curb their anti-Saudi rhetoric.

The vast majority of pilgrims were completely absorbed in their devotions and unaware of Iraqi and other charges. The problems that faced them were the physical strains among vast crowds, on days when summer heat soared to 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit).

The only sound heard above the loud chanting of "Labbayk Allahuma Labbayk" (I am at Your Service oh Lord) at the height of the pilgrimage was the sirens of ambulances ferrying sun-stroke victims to scores of well-maintained clinics.

Most pilgrims interviewed during the week-long Haj were especially thankful for the wide availability of chilled water, distributed free by King Fahd's private charity.

The completion of a large part of a \$5 billion scheme to expand and improve facilities, including air conditioning of the vast Grand Mosque of Mecca, also helped make this year's pilgrimage a success.

"No news is good news," beamed a senior Saudi official, happy that this year's pilgrimage failed to capture world headlines.

Iran and Georgia seek closer relations, sea links

NICOSIA (AP) — Georgia's prime minister and Iran's foreign minister conferred in Tehran on Sunday, seeking closer ties that could give each nation more outlets to major waterways, the official Iranian news agency said.

Tengiz Sigua of Georgia, once a republic of the former Soviet Union, and Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister, discussed political, economic and cultural ties, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said in a report monitored in Nicosia.

Mr. Sigua said his newly independent nation, which borders Europe's Black Sea, was interested in a route to the Gulf via Iran, IRNA said.

Mr. Velayati cited the importance of Iran having a link to Central and Eastern Europe via Georgia and the Black Sea, IRNA said.

Iran and Georgia do not border each other. Azerbaijan, another former Soviet republic, separates them.



Ali Akbar Velayati

Mr. Sigua arrived in Tehran on Sunday, leading a delegation of Georgian officials, the Iranian news agency said.

The two countries set up joint committees to deal with oil and gas, commerce, roads and transportation, politics and joint investment, IRNA added.

Iranians start Kharg Island terminal repairs

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's state-run oil company has started reconstruction work at the big Kharg Island terminal in the northern Gulf, heavily damaged by the Iraqi air force in the 1980-88 Gulf war, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The loading terminal 32 kilometres west of the Iranian coast was attacked by the Iraqis 2,338 times, according to official Iranian figures.

But the complex, through which the Iranians pumped 90 per cent of the crucial oil exports during the conflict, was never completely put out of action.

Iran's oil exports are its economic lifeline. President Hashemi Rafsanjani's government is driving to revitalise the moribund economy, is pressing to modernise the oil industry.

It seeks to boost production capacity from the current 3.7 million barrels a day to five million barrels by next March.

The highly respected oil industry newsletter, published in Nicosia, said the work began June 12 after the National Iranian Oil Company finally signed a long-delayed contract with France's Entreprenneur GTM pour les Travaux Petroliers Maritimes (ETPM).

The French firm will reconstruct nine of the original 14 loading berths and restore operating capacities within 20 months, the survey reported.

The Kharg complex comprises two main loading installations, a 10-berth T-shaped jetty on the east side of the island and the four-berth Sea Island facility off the western coast.

Once reconstruction is completed, the complex should have a sustainable loading capacity from fixed berths of more than five million barrels of oil a day, MEES said.

The contract price was initially set at \$230 million, but MEES said the final cost "may be significantly higher due to the inclusion of additional items in the work programme."

South Korea's Daewoo will be subcontracted on some of the work, the survey said. South Korea's Sangyong is already working on restoring war-damaged storage capacity under a \$150 million contract.

MEES editor Ian Seymour, who visited Kharg, noted: "Evidence of the battering which Kharg received in the war is still to be seen all around — including the remains of sunken vessels and the twisted metal superstructures of the most heavily affected loading berths."

Despite the massive damage, Mr. Seymour reported that "capacity at the fixed berths has been sufficient to cope with normal Iranian crude export levels ranging between 2.2 million and 2.5 million barrels a day."

Qadhafi reportedly receives death threat from IRA

CAIRO (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has received death threats from the Irish Republican Army (IRA), a Cairo magazine reported Sunday.

Quoting what it called official Libyan sources in Cairo, Rose Al Yousef news magazine said Colonel Qadhafi received the threats in the wake of press reports that said Libya had supplied Britain with documents on the organisation's training camps and the assistance given to it.

It said the death threats included Col. Qadhafi's family and some Libyan officials including Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al Bashari.

The weekly magazine said Libya in the past few days gave British officials "information on the size of the IRA and the type of weapons it has."

The magazine was alluding to last week's meeting between Libyan and British officials in Geneva, Switzerland. Reports at the time said Libya gave Britain information on the IRA.

Libyan officials in Cairo were not immediately available for comment on the report by the left-leaning magazine.

U.N. sanctions stifle what little tourism Libya had

By Neila Sammakia
The Associated Press

LEPTIS MAGNA, Libya — The wind whistles through the ruins of Leptis Magna, where the Roman occupiers of Libya had their government 1,772 years ago.

Not a tourist is in sight. Only schoolboys disturb the peace, with raucous voices and pop music blaring from portable cassette players.

Libya envisioned places like Leptis Magna as prime attractions when it started to promote tourism three years ago, offering visas to all except Israelis and South Africans.

But U.N. sanctions have ended the dream of thousands of tourists visiting the country's prehistoric cave drawings, Ber-

ber desert towns and Roman ruins. The isolation also threatens plans to preserve the site.

Opening his country to tourists was part of Libya's attempt to change its image as a supporter of international terrorism.

In April, however, the United Nations embargoed air service and arms sales and imposed diplomatic sanctions, trying to force Libya to hand over two Libyans suspected in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988, which took 270 lives.

A few hundred Germans, Scandinavians and Britons visited before the sanctions, but plans for more tours this spring and summer were cancelled.

"Last year, we had a group

of about 200 from England," said Ghina Anag, a director of the national museum in Tripoli, the capital. "It was a test for the Libyan government and it went very well."

He said a larger tour from Britain was planned for this year, but that the government was not sure whether the visitors will come.

"After the revolution, we were busy setting up the strategic foundations of the country," said Bashir Al Wafy, a senior official at the newly created board of tourism, referring to the coup that brought Col. Muammar Qadhafi to power in 1969.

"Now that we have laid down the infrastructure, we can take care of tourism." More is at stake than a trick-

le of tourists. A French project to start repairing damage at Leptis Magna, sponsored by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), has been put on hold.

The United Nations advised the experts involved not to go to Libya because of the sanctions.

Much of the ruins 120 kilometres southeast of Tripoli, including the baths, forum, marketplace and temple, was severely damaged by floods in 1988 and 1989.

Imposing columns and walls tower over broken pillars and toppled heads of fallen statues. Heads of intricately carved Medusas perch on blocks of stone waiting to be put back in place. Experts say hundreds of

pillars need restoring.

"Floods like those can happen again," said Nada Lah-Nashif, programme officer in charge of UNESCO projects in Libya.

She noted that Libya had paid increased attention to historical remains in recent years, but added: "There's a continuous erosion of the ruins, a race against time with the threat of possible floods."

Students from a nearby school walked past the ruins on their way to the beach, apparently unimpressed by the history so close at hand.

"When was this built?" Abdul Gassem Ali responded when asked about the ruins. "I'm not sure. It's written somewhere at the entrance."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
12:00 Les Aventures de Joe
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24:00 Les Aventures de Joe

PRAYER TIMES

6:55 Fajr
12:35 Dhuhr
16:16 Asr
19:47 Maghrib
21:22 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifith, Tel. 810740
Assistance of God Church, Tel. 62785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 63740

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Nova Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Assiut Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 623543
Assiut Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Assiut Orthodox Church Tel. 772361
St. Raphael Church Tel. 771751
Assiut International Church Tel. 653326
St. George's Church Tel. 811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh, causing dust in desert areas. In Assiut, winds will be southerly moderate to fresh and sea choppy.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 16 / 23
Aqaba 23 / 33

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 736123
Dr. Ahmad Othman 786348
Dr. Hussein Haddad 732267
Dr. Nageh Marwani 776149
Police 63912
Fire 775261
St. Raphael Church Tel. 771751
Assiut International Church Tel. 653326
St. George's Church Tel. 811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 14 per cent.

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Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Police 63912
Fire 775261
St. Raphael Church Tel. 771751
Assiut International Church Tel. 653326
St. George's Church Tel. 811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81813232
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642818
Atish Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amn 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6641714
Shamsi Hospital 669151
University Hospital 648843
Al-Musalla Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612157
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Islamic, Al-Musalla 7710113
Al-Bashir, J. Amn 7711176
Army, Marha 891611715
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674125
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (05)3300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
12:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
12

Best chance to minimise bureaucracy

Statistics expose shortcomings in retiring of civil servants despite long service years

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At the very least, the Jordanian government can reduce the bloated public sector workforce by 2,000 who are still holding jobs despite reaching the retirement age or having worked as civil servants for over 30 years.

According to statistics provided by the Civil Service Commission at the request of the Jordan Times, some 325 civil servants at the Ministry of Health, 925 at the Ministry of Education and 750 working at other ministries and government departments fall under the above mentioned categories and can easily be told, "Thank you and goodbye."

Salwa Khairy, director of research and information at the Civil Service Commission, explained that the regulations specify three areas where the government can terminate the work of a civil servant. She outlined them as follows:

— Upon reaching the age of 60 (for men) or 55 (for women).

— After 20 years of work.

— After 15 years of work under an early retirement scheme which needs special approval.

The statistics, the first to cover the age of government employees, show that if the second item mentioned above is to be taken into consideration, the government can immediately retire an extra 5,000 civil servants.

Mrs. Khairy said that by retiring some 7,000 government employees, many households would be financially, socially and economically ruined as thousands of families largely depend on the income, whatever small, of those employees.

accrete statistics specifying the number of service years for each government employee would probably reveal a higher number that should be retired but, she noted, such a request would create havoc among the civil servants.

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) had to request the ministries of health and education for the statistics because they are the two government bodies with highest government employment. The data on other ministries and departments were processed at the CSC.

The unique statistics, which the Jordan Times requested more than two months ago, have apparently caused rumours at the Ministry of Education, prompting the minister to announce that his office does not plan massive retirements. A few days later, another Ministry of Education announcement in the Arabic newspapers said that 297 employees who work at the ministry will be laid off in August this year.

An economist said the effects of large-scale retirements would have advantages and disadvantages in many areas such as:

— Lessening of the financial burden on the treasury.

— Easing the over employment in the public sector.

— Saving funds to create productive projects and employment outside the government service sector and cutting unemployment by filling the posts of those who can be retired.

An ex-minister of industry and trade, Jawad Anani, last year said in a lecture at the Association of Banks in Jordan that the nation's future lies in

sharply cutting the number of civil servants. He noted that there were some 300 employees at the Ministry of Industry and Trade during his term and that he could have easily run the ministry with only 150.

"It's a political decision to lay off thousands of government workers. Yet, who can dare ring the bell?" he asked. Mrs. Khairy said that firing the long-term employees would be haram (merciless).

"It would be inhuman to cut the livelihood of thousands of families. Imagine yourself starting a government job at the age of 25; isn't it unfair to retire you at 45 when your children would still be young and in need of financial support?"

Mrs. Khairy agreed, however, that 25 years of government service would be fair enough time after which a civil servant should be laid off. If an employee reaches the age of 60 (or 55 for a woman), he or she should not be allowed to continue the 25-year term.

But, according to the senior CSC official, the retirement issue does not end at this level. "It's been happening in the past few years that whenever a top government post became vacant, the government opted to bring somebody from outside its cadres to fill the post."

Mrs. Khairy pointed out. She elaborated that such a decision does not only demoralise the staff of a certain government institution but also blocks the smooth progress of advancement and employment since a vacant senior government post can be "broken up" to benefit many job-seekers at lower levels.

Moreover, Mrs. Khairy said, some old or senior government officials who do walk out the

door of their ministries or departments do jump back through the window, carrying an employment contract as advisors either at their own previous working places or even, sometimes, at the Prime Ministry.

An observer told the Jordan Times a true story which took place at the ministries of planning and finance a few years ago.

According to the observer, a minister's secretary, who had worked at the Planning Ministry for a long time, requested that she be put on retirement.

A few weeks later, she was awarded a JD600 contract to work as secretary for the same minister who took over the other ministry.

The question that arises after this review on the employment and retirement of civil servants is who is responsible for both the hiring and firing of government employees?

The answer from Mrs. Khairy shows that the CSC only acts as an employment agency for the government and nothing else.

"The decision of retirement is the sole right of the minister who passes his decision for a routine approval from the Council of Ministers," she added.

The dynamic director of research and information said that the retirement system as such was totally inadequate and left the minister's decision wide open to all kinds of social, financial and numerous other pressures.

"The minister sometimes ends his term without knowing the names of his subordinates and in some cases he might not be fully aware of government policies and procedures," a concerned citizen commented. He pointed out that the per-

sonnel department at a ministry might also be heavily involved in shadowing some civil servants from being put under the retirement spotlight.

Another government employee said it was very logical for a minister not to care about this issue.

"Why should the minister incur the wrath of so many people when he would be serving for a few years (or months) only. Aren't long-term personal relations and contacts more important," he asked defending a minister.

As such, every minister leaves the "dirty work" to his successor and vacates his post with a clean public image.

Noting that the statistics show only those employees in government bodies who are classified as regular, (excluding the daily-paid workers, contract workers and other irregular staff), the following ministries have the largest workforce and the highest number of employees who should be put on retirement, assuming each of them started working at the age of 25 and has completed 25 years in civil service or has reached the 60 (or 55) ceiling age:

— The Ministry of Education employs 45,255 regular employees of whom 13,385 are aged between 27-31 and 13,617 aged between 32-36. Over 1,000 should, however, be retired.

— The Ministry of Health employs 8,150 regular civil servants at the exact time, people would not be favouring government jobs and many would opt to turn to the private sector, whose expansion and advancement has been a strategic priority for the Kingdom," the businessman emphasised.

— The Ministry of Agriculture employs 1,189 regular civil servants of whom about 100 should be "uprooted."

— The Department of Customs employees 793, 100 of whom must be retired.

— The Land and Survey Department can easily retire 50 employees from a 654 workforce.

— The Prime Ministry employs about 15 who should be "sent home." The total regular staff stands at 46.

— The Meteorology Department employs 213 but 35 of them are "at the freezing temperature."

— The Natural Resources Authority employs 367 civil servants, some 40 of them are "dry."

— The Ministry of Communication can easily "disconnect" over 90 from its total 1,309 workforce.

— The Jordan Valley Authority employs 36 of whom 13 are "not as productive as before."

— The Ministry of Higher Education can easily "graduate" 80 of its staff, which total 1,180.

The statistics are dated April 20, 1992 and the records of the CSC show that about 118,000 civil servants were registered at the end of last year.

A private sector businessman pointed out that government lacy in strictly monitoring the service period of civil servants prompts many to think that a government job lasts a lifetime and, as such, induces the majority of job-seekers to seek a government post.

"Had the government been tough in retiring its civil servants at the exact time, people would not be favouring government jobs and many would opt to turn to the private sector, whose expansion and advancement has been a strategic priority for the Kingdom," the businessman emphasised.

Parliament hopes to pass laws on press, parties

AMMAN (J.T.) — In its coming extraordinary session starting June 20, the Lower House of Parliament hopes to pass laws on press and publications and political parties, and to discuss and decide on all agenda topics, House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat said on Monday.

In the next two days Dr. Arabiyat said, in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he planned meetings with the members of the House's Legal Committee and heads of parliamentary blocs to work out a plan for the extraordinary session. It is hoped that the plan will be comprehensive and intensive enough to cover all the topics on the agenda during the two month extraordinary session, Dr. Arabiyat said.

A Royal Decree, issued last Tuesday summoning Parliament for the extraordinary session June 20, 1992, listed topics to be debated in the session, including new laws and amendments to laws.

The extraordinary session will also debate the 1987 to 1990 Audit Bureau reports, follow-up public prosecution reports and discuss national issues, according to the Royal Decree.

The House speaker noted that everything will be done for the House to pass the new laws, on political parties and press and publications, but he said that depends on the progress of discussions. He said that should the extraordinary session fail to pass the laws the matter will be referred to the ordinary session starting in October.

In an interview with the Jordan Times earlier this month, Dr. Arabiyat said that the press and publications and political parties laws will have priority over other items on the agenda.

Head of the House Legal Committee, Hussein Mujali, said that once the Legal Committee endorses the draft laws they must be studied by the House.

Since the present House of Parliament was elected in November 1989, the House has passed several laws and amendments to existing laws pertaining to public freedoms and the national economy.

Mr. Mujali, a lawyer by profession, told the Jordan Times that legislating political parties and redrawing electoral districts could bring Jordan one step closer to a fully democratising its political system.



Abdul Latif Arabiyat

EC states take tough stance

(Continued from page 1)

ter Elisabeth Guigou said. Interviewed on RTL radio in Paris on Sunday night, Ms. Guigou said: "The decision seems to be turning out favourably."

She said extending Mr. Delors' term, due to expire at the end of

this year, would be discussed in Lisbon on June 26 and 27 "because several heads of state and government want his mandate to be renewed for two years."

"Jacques Delors has made it known himself that if asked, he would be prepared to serve," she said.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Amman completes assessment

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Region Development Council and the governorate's development committees recently assessed and finished a follow-up report for Amman's five-year regional development plan. The report included an assessment of developments in the economic, social and services sectors that occurred in Amman district during the past regional development plan. The report also included the main objectives of the current development plan, follow-up plans and investments and their distribution among the various sectors.

Feast keeps CDD busy

AMMAN (Petra) — During the Eid Al Adha holiday, the Civil Defence Department (CDD) dealt with 463 incidents, their work ranging from dousing fires to administering first aid, according to Director of the CDD Public Relations Nabeel Qawar. Mr. Qawar said nine people were killed in these incidents and that the number of fires increased dramatically during the holiday. He added that most of those fires were minor and were caused by cigarettes or by children.

The Amman Baccalaureate School SUMMER PROGRAMME (1992) (SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT)



Courses: Languages (Arabic, English, French)
Activities: Computer, maths S.A.T., dance, drama, music.
Sports: Swimming, football, tennis, squash, basketball, skating.



For further information please call 845572, Summer Programme Section
June 20, 1992 - July 16, 1992
Saturday through Thursday
9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

UNDP plans to establish regional office in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) plans to establish a regional office in Amman soon to supervise and help carry out projects in the Arab region.

According to U.N. sources of the UNDP head office in New York, the plan is to commence in the coming month when a large number of international-grade staff will take up their positions in the Jordanian capital.

UNDP's regional office here, established in 1950, will be the second U.N. agency operational in the Kingdom establishing a regional office after the United

Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Over the past 42 years, UNDP and its previous organisations have joined with Jordanian planners and officials to develop a better future for the Jordanian people. Early contributions in the 1950s were in the form of expertise and fellowships to assess needs, identify development opportunities and discover means of launching development projects in social and economic sectors.

The establishment of a special fund in 1958 was an advance in developmental cooperation through which several projects

were launched to develop human and natural resources in the country.

UNDP in Amman is currently helping the Civil Service Commission, a government agency which recruits civil servants, to train government employees under a plan to upgrade services in public administration offices.

According to UNDP reports, since its establishment the UNDP office has engaged in development partnerships in Jordan and has supported the implementation of 214 projects in social and economic sectors of Jordan.

The UNDP and its previous organisations have contributed some \$60.8 million to the Jordanian government to carry out socio-economic projects in the Kingdom.

According to the UNDP report, the highest share of UNDP technical assistance to Jordan has gone to human resources development, reaching 42.6 per cent of the total.

The productive sector, represented by agriculture and industry including mineral mining, received 36.8 per cent.

The third area in UNDP contributions is national development planning which received 11.5 per cent and the fourth is science and technology-based services, whose share is 5.5 per cent.

Students prepare for exams

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 72,173 students who completed their secondary-stage school education will take today (Tuesday) the second and final examinations organized by the Ministry of Education.

A ministry official said that arrangements have been made for the students to take their

examinations at 971 halls in different provinces. These arrangements include teachers to supervise and grade the tests.

According to ministry officials, 39,473 students are sitting for the literary exams, 20,686 for the scientific exams, 5,682 for the commercial exams, 2,427 for the agricultural exams, 3,368 for the

industrial exams, 1,356 students for the nursing exams and 183 for the hotel management stream.

Normally, results are published in the local press by the end of next month, allowing students sufficient time to enroll at universities in Jordan and abroad before the beginning of the autumn semester.

Meanwhile, all government and private schools in the country have started their school holidays, and the Ministry of Education has arranged for students to participate in the Al Hussein Training Camps in different areas.

Minister of Education Thaqan Al Hindawi is expected to formally inaugurate this year's summer camps at a ceremony to be held on July 3.

Ministry officials said that the camps offer secondary students

an opportunity to learn new and useful skills and to work during the two-month summer holiday.

Some of the students will be involved in farming, others in social and economic work and in a number of fields. All will have recreation time and a chance to visit economic projects and archaeological sites throughout Jordan, officials said.

The ministry has arranged student transport back and forth from the camps to work and training, the officials noted. Furthermore, the officials said the students can also gather at summer clubs for seminars, cultural competitions and sports.

According to the latest ministry statistics, Jordan has 1,169,890 students at its schools, trained by 47,440 teachers at 3,479 schools in the Kingdom.

Jordanian doctor honoured by American Red Cross

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Jordanian doctor has been honoured by the American Red Cross Society for his distinguished humanitarian services over the past three years, particularly during the Gulf crisis.

Dr. Mohammad Hadid, vice executive president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), received the International Humanitarian Services Award for 1992 from American Red Cross Society President Elizabeth Dole at a ceremony held on June 1 in Baltimore, Maryland.

The award was presented to Dr. Hadid in recognition of his distinguished efforts and humanitarian services, said Mrs. Dole in a citation read to the ceremony press. She said Dr. Hadid was instrumental in organising JNRCS's assistance to nearly a million evacuees in Jordan soon after the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in August of 1990.

Dr. Hadid has also been recognised as one of the leading Jordanian figures in foreign humanitarian organisations, Red Cross societies and the Iraqi National

Red Cross Society, arranging for humanitarian relief supplies to reach Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

The presentation of the award took place at the national convention of the American Red Cross Society in Maryland. The award is annually presented to persons with distinguished efforts in providing humanitarian services around the world.

Dr. Hadid received the award in the face of competition from 26 other world personalities nominated.

The ceremony in Baltimore was attended by Jordan's Ambassador to the USA Hussein Hammami, among other dignitaries and Red Cross officials.

In addition, the International Federation of Red Cross — Red Crescent Societies in Geneva has appointed Dr. Hadid as a member of the federation's five-member committee entrusted with studying the federation's future plans which cover the work of the various federation's branches and is considered the highest ruling body of the Geneva-based federation.

The committee has scheduled a meeting in Geneva next month.



JORDAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN (JUW)

Jordan University for Women (JUW) is offering a summer intensive course in:

for non-Arabic speaking females. Classes begin on 4/7/1992 and last for a period of 6 weeks. The course includes:

Arabic writing and sound systems
Basic vocabulary
Basic grammatical structures (morphology and syntax)

For further information, please contact:

Ms Reem Abu Lughod
Jordan University for Women
P.O.Box 961343
Amman - Jordan
Fax: 715570
Tel.: 715558 / 715481 / 715982-85

Condolences

The Editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing away of Lutfiah Othman Ghannouch, wife of the late Mahmoud Bitar and grandmother of their friend

and colleague Maha Adalat. The late Mrs. Bitar, who passed away last Thursday at the age of 75, is survived by six daughters and three sons. May her soul rest in peace.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ali Tabb and Rafe' Nasiri at Abdul Hameed Shamm Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m.-5 p.m.).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by 40 Jordanian artists entitled "An Artist and a Painting" at Baladina Art Gallery, Gardens Street.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Issam Tawawi at the Phoenix Gallery for Experimental Arts.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Patrice Pale at the French Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Lebanese Women Between Image and Reality" by Dr. Hiam Kallab at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shamm Foundation - 6 p.m.

JOB VACANCIES

A non-governmental community development organisation would like to announce the following job vacancies:

- Chief trainer in the community development unit
- Chief trainer in pre-school education unit
- Chief trainer for the income-generation and skills development programme
- Head of the printing and production unit for publication of training materials

The applicant is subject to the following conditions:

- Jordanian nationality
- B.A. degree, preferably in a specialisation related to the job applied for, plus a minimum of 3 years experience.
- Good command of the English language, both spoken and written.

If you fulfill the necessary requirements please send a copy of your C.V. to P.O.Box 5118, Amman, not later than June 30, 1992.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
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Rio's new hope

THE EARTH Summit ended Sunday with renewed optimism that the start struck at the Rio de Janeiro gathering to save our planet from environmental and ecological disaster would continue with greater determination and vigour. Measured by a strictly material yardstick, however, the achievements of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development fell woefully short of the expectations set by the organisers of the meeting who had put the minimum price tag for such a bold objective at no less than \$70 billion. Less than one seventh of that amount was actually pledged by the participating countries spearheaded by the industrial giants of the world. Japan rightfully gained the title and role as the foremost nation that has translated its pious words into deeds when it dramatically announced the expansion in its environmental aid to about \$8 billion over a period of five years. By so doing, Tokyo has become a pace-and standard-setter for the entire comity of nations on environmental issues, and it may serve as a model for the other rich countries to follow.

On the other side of the ledger, the Rio conference did attain a significant degree of success and progress. "This indeed is a historic moment for humanity," declared Maurice Strong, the secretary-general of the conference, at the conclusion of the 150-nation meeting and the adoption of the Rio Declaration. Mr. Strong went on to describe the summit that gathered more than 100 world leaders as a "profound human experience from which none of us can emerge unchanged." What prompted this measured sense of optimism was not just the Biodiversity Accord to save plant and animal species nor only the treaty to combat global warming by limiting the greenhouse effect, nor even the other agreements aimed to fight desertification or prevent over-fishing or protect the world's forests. Rather it was the state of global mind that was struck by the summit to change the way the world will deal with environment and development.

The paramount importance of the Rio Summit, therefore, lay not so much in the money earmarked for environmental protection or the agreements signed for that purpose but, more importantly, in the new perspective and attitude belatedly and painstakingly taken by the international community to change old ways in development and industrialisation by putting ecological and environmental considerations where they rightly belong.

If the Earth Summit has been nothing but a start, it is nonetheless a good start whose momentum must be maintained with all the political will necessary for achieving its noble objectives. Barring success in this endeavour, the world will continue its downward trend of sinking into the quagmire of environmental and ecological catastrophes from which it may never recover.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Monday launched a scathing attack on the Libyan press for its hostile propaganda campaign directed against the Arabs and for the position adopted by the Libyan parliament vis-a-vis the whole Arab Nation. Those orchestrating the media campaign against the Arabs in Libya are justifying their action by saying that Libya is not backed by any Arab country in the face of the air embargo and the danger the country is facing from the West, said the daily. It said that one could have found justification for such a campaign against the Arab Nation had Libya adopted a positive stand with regard to Arab issues on different occasions. Libya has always adopted a hostile stand towards the Arab countries and the Arab causes and the Libyan oil has never benefited any Arab country or people, the daily pointed out. It reminded the Libyans of the fact that the Palestinians and the Lebanese had fought alone, courageously, against the Israeli aggression in Lebanon and the Iraqis had fought for eight years against Iran's aggression and the U.S.-led alliance and has withstood the embargo for two years. Neither the Iraqis nor the Lebanese or the Palestinians cursed the Arabs like the Libyans are doing now, although the Libyans had shipped their rockets to Tehran to be used against Iraqi cities, the daily added. The paper said that the Libyan children are not dying of hunger like the Iraqis and the ports and borders are quite open for trade noting there is no need for the Libyans to be hostile towards the other Arabs whom they failed in times of need. The paper stressed that Jordan was supporting the Libyan people against the onslaught of the Americans, the British and the French, but it noted that with the slanderous attacks and the hostile campaigns against the other Arabs, the Libyans can hope for no solution to their problem.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily referred to the atrocities committed by Israel against the Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip noting that the Palestinians are now facing unprecedented crimes, terrorism criminal actions as well as mass arrests. The daily said that the terrorist and racist activities of the Israeli troops violate international laws and norms and the Geneva Conventions as well as all human rights, but the world community and the U.N. Security Council are turning a deaf ear to the cries of the Palestinian people. The world community's silence vis-a-vis these atrocities serve as an encouragement to the Israeli authorities to pursue their brutal practices against the Palestinian people, the daily said. The world community's negative stand vis-a-vis these atrocities, are encouraging the Israelis also to launch aggression on Lebanon, the Palestinians and the Lebanese freedom fighters and the Palestinians refugees, said the daily. It is clear that the U.S. administration's position with regard to Israel's actions in the occupied Arab territories and its stand in the face of Shamir's repeated statements about Israel holding on to the occupied Arab territories under any circumstances and his refusal to give up land for peace in implementation of U.N. Resolution 242 and 338 are helping Israel to turn its back to peace, the paper added. It said that should the American administration continue to ignore Israel's atrocities, the security in the whole Middle East region will be jeopardised.

The View from Fourth Circle

New world order or global employment office?

IT has been fascinating to follow the debate in the United States and the West in general during the last two years on two important political/historical issues: The "end of history" and the "new world order." They both speak much about the central issue that may dominate the next several decades or half a century of global history: is the world destined gradually to come to resemble New Jersey, i.e., as the "end of history" thesis by ex-U.S. State Department policy analyst Francis Fukuyama proposes, has the historical quest for responsive and just societies come to an end, because the model of Western liberal democracy has triumphed over all other forms of national organisation, and therefore most countries in the world will adopt this system and gradually come to resemble one another?

The "new world order" proclaimed by George Bush nearly two years ago parallels the scope and importance of the "end of history" argument. Neither can be dismissed out of hand, regardless of how presumptuous they may appear. I would like to do my own presumptuous thing and offer some thoughts, from the Arab-Middle Eastern perspective, on the so-called "new world order," and to suggest how it is being perceived by the majority of people in this part of the world.

The logic and promise of the new world order are fine, on paper. If the world will be governed henceforth by the rule of law, democracy and human rights, then the people of the Middle East would be the first to welcome it. We yearn for these things, and have fought for them in recent years. But are we really being offered law and democracy, or is the promise of a new order somehow selective in its beneficiaries?

The single most common Middle Eastern rejoinder to the rhetoric of the new world order (NWO) is to ask whether the real objective is global stability and equity, or, as we suspect, to ensure continued predominance of American ideological impulses and the materialism of that small minority of the U.S. population that lives in enviable comfort? Is this really a new world order, or simply a reordering of the rhetoric to suit the United States' frantic quest for answers to the important questions about why it seems to be triumphant around the world but in deep trouble at home?

In the last two years, on three separate occasions when the United States had opportunities to interact meaningfully with the rest of the world, the bottom line of Washington's objectives was made very clear. Soon after the announcement of the NWO, both U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker said during the Gulf crisis that one purpose of the U.S.-led military move into the Arabian Peninsula was to assure the jobs of Americans at home. One year later, during his visit to Japan, President Bush repeated his motive for that trip as being to promote jobs for Americans. And another half year later, on the eve of his departure for the Earth Summit in Brazil, President Bush again affirmed his primary responsibility as safeguarding American jobs. One wondered: Did the new world order simply mean full employment for Americans — and the rest of the world be damned?

We in the Middle East are sceptical about the NWO because our region continues to suffer the severe consequences of the worst aspects of the old order: frail and fractured states, a fragmented regional order, excessive militarism and violence, stagnant or declining real standards of living, severe economic disparities, rising levels of grassroots frustration and anger, Israeli aggression, Western neo-colonial exploitation, and the negative consequences of having been entangled in the regional ramifications of the cold war. When the West proclaims in one breath that a new world order is born, and simultaneously takes massive military and diplomatic action to ensure — as it seems to be doing today in the Gulf, Algeria, Egypt, and elsewhere in the region — that the defining power flows, financial transactions, and macro-politics of our region should remain unchanged, then we have valid reason to question the worldly dimension of the new world order, and to ask whether it really takes into consideration the rights and aspirations of all people.

While the NWO holds out the promise of resolving regional disputes and human inequities in other parts of the world (e.g. Southern Africa, Central America, South-East Asia, or Eastern Europe), there are very few if any tangible signs that the U.S.-led drive for a NWO targets the human needs, political rights and national aspirations of Arabs and other Middle Eastern peoples. Instead, there are growing fears throughout the region that the

NWO is simply a cruel, white, northern euphemism for maintaining neo-colonial patterns that exploit the financial, strategic, and natural resources of a few oil-laden Arab states in the Gulf — while relegating the 95 per cent of the rest of the Arabs, along with other regional players such as Iranians and Kurds, to a future of long-term submission to predatory and materialistic U.S. corporate dictates.

The essential Arab concern is that the NWO will simply accentuate and perpetuate the distortions, inequities, and injustices that have defined the Middle East during the last several decades, while targeting the emerging Islamic politics and nationalism of the region as the new enemy of those who wage fierce technological and economic warfare in the name of the

"If the world will be governed henceforth by the rule of law, democracy and human rights, then the people of the Middle East would be the first to welcome it."

NWO. The talk of a new world order contrasts sharply with the reality of the old ways of doing things in our part of the world — and the old ways were both ugly and unworkable.

By the 1980s, the Arab region had evolved into a parody of viable statehood and authentic nationhood. It was a painful collection of frail states that represented a failed post-1920 political order. That failed order had comprised three kinds of states: the cash-fuelled states of the Gulf, the heavily-handled authoritarianism of states such as Iraq, and the light-handed authoritarianism of states such as Egypt for Morocco. All three models had failed to provide their people with the four basic factors that people expected from their states: physical security, rising standards of living, a sense of national identity based on participatory and accountable government, and the hope for a better future for one's children. Very few Arab states could offer

"There are growing fears throughout the region that the new world order is simply a cruel, white, northern euphemism for maintaining neo-colonial patterns."

their citizens two or three of these elements, and not a single one could offer them all.

The failure of the modern Arab order has been painfully symbolised recently in several ways. First, it is difficult to say exactly how many Arab countries exist, given the rather vague status of lands such as Somalia, Djibouti, Lebanon, Palestine, northern Iraq, Western Sahara, southern Sudan, and others. Second, the spectacle of states in ruin, on fire, or ravaged by the domestic violence of their people or government had spread to the four corners of the Arab World: Lebanon in the Levant, Kuwait in the Gulf, Somalia in the Horn of Africa, and Algeria in North Africa. And third is the agonising spectacle of Kuwait, whose land and vessels in the period 1986-1991 flew five different flags — those of Kuwait, Iraq, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the United Nations. Countries that collapsed, or burned, or flew five flags in five years raised serious doubts about their viability as countries, and their authenticity as national communities.

This is the consequence and the residue of the old order from

the Arab perspective. But the majority of Arabs did not accept this painful reality without trying to redress it. Just before and during the Gulf crisis, most Arabs had started to ask five basic questions about their sad condition: How could a small country such as Israel inflict such defeat and humiliation on such a large and once powerful Arab nation? Why had the Arab World degenerated into a series of autocratic principalities ruled by whims of self-imposed, unelected, non-accountable leadership? Why could the West continue to meddle in the region and exploit its natural, financial, and strategic resources for its own end? Why did the Arabs not achieve their enormous human and economic potential, but instead remain fragmented, quarrelling, and politically incoherent? And why were the basic life quality and future prospects of most ordinary people in most Arab states declining in recent years, when the region was widely portrayed abroad as being rich?

In the early 1990s, with the cold war over, global geo-political realignments taking their toll on the Middle East region, and talk of a new world order filling the air, five new questions now dominate the thoughts of Arabs, Iranians and other Middle Easterners who assess their place in the proposed NWO:

— Why is Islam often portrayed as the new threat to Western civilisation and selectively exploited by the West when it suits the West to do so (in Afghanistan) but opposed when it does not (in Iran, Algeria, and much of the rest of the Arab World)?

— Why did some Arab governments, such as Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq, Syria or Egypt, effectively deny their people the option to resort to God and to their Islamic religion as a refuge in times of stress, and as a vector for political change and rebirth?

— Why do the Arabs suffer continued double standards in the implementation of U.N. resolutions and political morality, e.g. why did the West formally protect the Kurds in Iraq but not the Palestinians in Palestine, even though valid U.N. resolutions ask that both people be protected? Why did the West resort to sanctions to protest the suspension of democracy in Haiti and Peru, but not in Algeria? Why did the West demand the pluralism, democracy, and human rights should be preconditions for aid to the new republics of the former Soviet Union, and why does it use aid to punish Malawi's poor human rights record, but the same West, especially those great world orderers the United States and Great Britain, makes no similar demands of Arab states that seek Western aid or protection?

— Why are the Arabs and Muslims being subjected to technological racism that denies them, but not Israelis, the opportunity to buy or develop advanced military technologies such as nuclear weapons or ballistic missile systems?

— Why are some Arab lands, such as Somalia and Lebanon, treated as if they do not exist, and are allowed to drown in their own blood simply because they have lost their former strategic importance? Are Arabs such as Iraq and Somalia only seen by the West as utilitarian entities, to be supported and armed in times of geo-strategic need, but ignored or destroyed when the need is no longer there?

The message that has emerged from the grassroots of the Middle East since the overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1979 has been clear, consistent and reasonable: the people of the region insist on developing societies that respond to their human rights, needs and aspirations, in line with the goals of stability, equity, rule of law, and regional integration that define the new world order articulated by the West. If such a goal is not achieved through the normal course of political life, it will be achieved — as it was in Southern Africa Europe — through a combination of political challenge, military resistance, or mass civil rebellion.

The people of the Middle East are demanding that any new world order should apply equally to them as it does to other regions of the world. They insist that a genuine new world order see the emergence of a new Middle Eastern regional order that is based on principles of democracy, human rights, genuine national sovereignty, and meaningful regional integration. If the NWO holds out the promise of attaining these goals, the people of the Middle East will embrace it with enthusiasm. But if the NWO turns out to be a cage in which the people and resources of the Middle East are trapped as the perpetual victims of the old order — and as the world's last colonies — it will continue to elicit the scepticism and resistance from a region that has clearly demonstrated its capacity for sustained struggle for dignity in recent years.

Primaries scarred Bush, Clinton while Perot breezed along

By Walker R. Means
By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When the Democrats overhauled their system for picking presidential nominees, the aim was to air out smoke-filled rooms, take power away from professional politicians and give it to the voters. Twenty years later, a good many voters seem irked that politicians are running, let alone king making.

From inside the major parties looking out at independent Ross Perot, the nominating process seems to be a punishing success. Bill Clinton won 29 primaries to capture the delegates for the Democratic nomination, and now says:

"The American people are so disgusted with both political parties — and I don't blame them — that anybody who's gone through this primary process winds up weaker coming out than they went in, because you become like a politician."

He offered that judgment in an appearance on Cable News Network's "Larry King Live" interview programme, the stage on which Mr. Perot declared himself available for the White House less than four months ago. So far, the TV talk show has been a persuasive forum for Mr. Perot, while the primary campaigns have advertised the weak spots of their winners, Mr. Clinton and President Bush.

Mr. Perot now boasts that he's pulling the others into his talk show arena.

"Remember when they thought it was obscene that I would go on a talk show and talk about these issues?" he told a rally in Las Vegas last Thursday.

He also taunted Mr. Clinton and Bush as big spenders for the cost of their primary campaigns, saying that he's economised, that he neglects the fact that they have been running all year — and that he's said he's willing to spend \$100 million or more of his own money on the campaign.

"Let's look at the facts, which



Ross Perot

people rarely do in politics," Mr. Perot said. "The Democrats have spent over \$17 million, the Republicans have spent over \$17 million and all of us put together, including me, have spent \$1.4 million. We used brains, wit and ingenuity as a substitute for massive spending," he said.

Since a petition drive to get on general election ballots substitutes for a far costlier primary election campaign, Mr. Perot hasn't needed massive spending yet.

"He hasn't faced one voter in one election yet," Democratic National Chairman Ronald H. Brown said on ABC-TV, noting that Mr. Perot's strength in voter surveys may wane as the months go on.

"It's one thing to ask a voter in May or June what you would do if the election was held today," Mr. Brown said.

"There's a big difference between the polls, exit polls and the like in June, and what people say in November in the voting booth," added Fred Malek, campaign manager for Mr. Bush.

Former President Richard Nixon says Mr. Perot will be the strongest third candidate at least since Theodore Roosevelt in 1912, and not only because he has a lot of money to spend. "It's because he is a non-politician," said the former president.

"It's a big advantage in this day and age when the parties are both

unpopular if you can just say, 'I'm running, and here's my direct communication with the American people,'" Mr. Clinton lamented.

The irony is that the system itself was changed, initially by Democratic reformers, to put would-be nominees in direct contact with the voters. The objective was to broaden participation in nominating campaigns, and the result was the proliferation of presidential primaries.

Once a testing ground where a candidate would try to show his voter appeal to impress the power brokers, the primaries became the dominant force in picking presidential candidates. Since they are set up by state election laws, the Democratic reforms affected the Republicans too.

None of it applies to Mr. Perot, running outside the two-party system in a year when outsiders have had the advantage.

At the prime time news conference the major broadcast networks skipped last Thursday, Mr. Bush was asked why any candidate would go through last grueling primary campaign if, like Mr. Perot, he could simply announce and run.

Mr. Bush said his wife had asked him the same thing.

"Yet, we are going through an unusual period," Mr. Bush said. "But the two-party system has provided us fantastic historical stability... So in my view, as this campaign unfolds, as all of us spell out our positions on the issues, people are going to recognise that, and the two parties will be strong when this election is over."

And that, as on little else, Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton are agreed.

"There's also no question that every now and then, the parties need a little shaking up," Mr. Clinton said. "But I still believe that our democracy will work better if we have two parties that function, rather than just splintering apart."

Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton now have five campaign months to convince the voters of it.

Bush finding political boost elusive

By Steve Holland
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Embarrassed in Panama, isolated in Rio and thwarted again by Congress, U.S. President George Bush is still searching for the morale boost that his dispirited campaign — and his ego — so desperately want.

A fierce competitor who measures life in wins and losses, Mr. Bush ended a three-day, 16,000 kilometres southern journey back where he started, looking for a way to improve his standing with disgruntled American voters.

In Panama, he was seconds away from giving a triumphant speech on improvements in the country since he ordered a U.S. invasion that ousted strongman Manuel Noriega in 1989.

Flag-waving supporters were in place. The cameras were rolling. The Bush campaign saw its man proving his foreign policy skills.

Then disaster struck. Riot police fired tear gas at anti-Bush demonstrators. The gas swirled over the Bush supporters, prompting a stampede. Bush was forced to flee.

Instead of a victory celebration, Americans back home saw scenes of chaos and were reminded of Tokyo in January, when their leader collapsed from flu and vomited at the feet of Japan's prime minister.

"I think everybody who was there saw the warmth of the reception from the people of Panama along the streets," Mr. Bush told a news conference in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday before he headed back to Washington.

"What got the news, of course, was a handful of demonstrators," he said.

On to Brazil, Mr. Bush found himself isolated by friend and foe alike on a major point — his refusal to sign an earth summit treaty protecting plants and animals.



George Bush

"Embarrassed in Panama, isolated in Rio and thwarted again by Congress, U.S. President George Bush is still searching for the morale boost that his dispirited campaign — and his ego — so desperately want."

It was an unfamiliar position for the man who led the world against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but whose declared preoccupation now is ending the U.S. recession.

Arguing that the treaty would hurt American jobs, he opposed a provision that would guarantee developing countries a share in profits that U.S. firms make from

taking obscure plants from Third World nations and turning them into valuable medicines.

It did show Mr. Bush's critics that he is willing to stand on principle — they contend he doesn't stand for anything — but it was difficult to explain when key U.S. allies, including Britain, Germany and Japan, all found ways to sign the document.

His position, though, was likely to find support back home from those who feel he was looking out for America's interests.

"Sometimes leadership is not going along with everybody else," Mr. Bush insisted.

Back in Washington, the Democratic-controlled congress was in another full-scale revolt against the president.

House leaders sabotaged his effort to add an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring a balanced federal budget.

Mr. Bush was so frustrated that he almost embraced a suggestion by maverick Republican Newt Gingrich to make this appeal to the voters.

Put either Republicans or Democrats in charge of both the White House and Congress, but don't have one party against the other because that path has paralysed the government.

Irritating Mr. Bush as well is an effort by a Texas Democrat, Henry Gonzalez, to sour what Mr. Bush considers his sweetest victory, pushing Iraq from Kuwait.

Mr. Gonzalez has been calling attention for weeks to what he said was the coziness between the Bush administration and Saddam Hussein's government — until just before Iraq invaded Kuwait. The house Judiciary Committee is now considering naming an independent counsel to consider whether any laws were broken.

Mr. Bush condemned the effort as a "witch hunt" perpetrated by Democrats trying to justify their opposition to the war.

Text of Earth Summit declaration

FOLLOWING IS A text of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted by world leaders on Sunday at the final session of the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development:

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Having met at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992,

Reaffirming the declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972, and seeking to build upon it,

With the goal of establishing a new and equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of cooperation among states, key sectors of societies and people,

Working towards international agreements which respect the interests of all and protect the integrity of the global environmental and development system,

Recognizing the integral and interdependent nature of the earth, our home,

Proclaims that:

Principle 1
Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

Principle 2
States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and development policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

Principle 3
The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.

Principle 4
In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.

Treaties and statements

HERE ARE the main points of the five principal documents to emerge from the Earth Summit:

Biodiversity Convention

A legally binding treaty to protect plants and animals in danger of extinction. A total of 153 countries signed by Sunday; the European Community also signed. Other nations may do so at the United Nations in New York through June 1993. It must be ratified by individual governments.

The United States — alone among the major economic powers — did not sign. U.S. negotiators said it did not adequately protect patents, copyrights and other "intellectual property rights."

The Treaty:

— Requires signatories to inventory plants and wildlife within their borders, and develop plans to protect those that are endangered.

— Establishes financial mechanisms to help developing countries carry out the inventory and protection programmes.

— Obliges countries that use the genetic resources of a nation to share the research, profits and technology with that nation.

Global Warming Convention

A legally binding treaty that recommends curbing emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other "greenhouse" gases thought to warm the climate by trapping the Sun's heat close to Earth. However, at U.S. insistence, it does not set targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. The United States is the single largest producer of those emissions.

A total of 153 countries, including the United States, signed the treaty by Sunday. Other nations may do so at the United Nations in New York until June 1993. It must be ratified by individual governments.

Malaysia refused to sign because of the lack of specific targets in the final document. The 12-member European Community and Japan signed, and also pledged to cap their carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000 — the target written out of the pact.

The Treaty:

— Urges nations to stabilise their greenhouse gas emissions.

— Sets up mechanisms to transfer to developing nations financial aid and technology that would minimize greenhouse gas emissions.

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

A non-binding statement of 27 broad principles to guide environmental policy. It was adopted by consensus Sunday.

Among its statements:

— Nations have a responsibility to ensure that activities within their borders do not damage the environment of other nations.

— Protection of the environment constitutes "an integral part of the development process."

— The needs of developing countries, especially the poorest and "most environmentally vulnerable," should receive priority.

Agenda 21

A non-binding, 800-page blueprint for action to protect the environment while encouraging development. Summit organisers say the plan would cost \$125 billion a year to implement. It was adopted by consensus on Sunday.

It includes chapters on women, children, poverty and other aspects of underdevelopment not usually associated with the environment.

Oil-rich Saudi Arabia and Kuwait accepted the final document with "reservations" because they felt it discriminated against petroleum while endorsing nuclear energy.

Statement on Forest Principles

A non-binding statement on protection of forests. The 17-point document was adopted by consensus Sunday.

It maintains that sustainable management of forests is important for economic, ecological, social and cultural reasons. It also stresses the importance of indigenous peoples' rights and biodiversity.

The Statement:

— Recommends that countries assess the impact of economic development on their forests, and take steps to minimize the damage.

— Establishes a process for countries to work together on the safe use of forests. This could lead to a legally binding convention.

Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

Principle 10

Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

Principle 11

States shall enact effective environmental legislation. Environmental standards, management objectives and priorities shall reflect the environmental and developmental context to which they apply. Standards applied by some countries may be inappropriate and of unwarranted economic and social cost to other countries, in particular developing countries.

Principle 12

States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better address the problems of environmental degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Unilateral actions to deal with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country should be avoided. Environmental measures addressing transboundary or global environmental problems should, as far as possible, be based on an international consensus.

Principle 13

States shall develop national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage. States shall also cooperate in an expeditious and more determined manner to develop further international law regarding liability and compensation for adverse effects of environmental damage caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to areas beyond their jurisdiction.

Principle 14

States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other states of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health.

Principle 15

In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by states

according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Principle 16

National authorities should endeavour to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment.

Principle 17

Environmental impact assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority.

Principle 18

States shall immediately notify other states of any natural disasters or other emergencies that are likely to produce sudden harmful effects on the environment of those states. Every effort shall be made by the international community to help states so afflicted.

Principle 19

States shall provide prior and timely notification and relevant information to potentially affected states on activities that may have a significant adverse transboundary environmental effect and shall consult with those states at an early stage and in good faith.

Principle 20

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.

Principle 21

The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilized to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all.

Principle 22

Indigenous people and their communities, and other local communities, have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development.

Principle 23

The environment and natural resources of people under oppression, domination and occupation shall be protected.

Principle 24

Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development. States shall therefore respect international law

Principle 25

Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent

Principle 26

States shall resolve all their environmental disputes peacefully and by appropriate means in accordance with the charter of the United Nations.

Principle 27

States and people shall cooperate in good faith and in a spirit of partnership in the fulfilment of the principles embodied in this declaration and in the further development of international law in the field of sustainable development.

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Bulls beat Trail Blazers to retain NBA title

CHICAGO (R) — The Chicago Bulls made a furious fourth-quarter charge to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 97-93 and repeat as National Basketball Association (NBA) champions Sunday.

The Bulls outscored the Blazers 33-14 in the fourth quarter — with the run triggered after their star, Michael Jordan, sat on the bench — to win the best-of-seven championship finals four games to two.

Jordan was the game's high scorer with 33 points, scoring 12 of the Bulls' last 19 points.

Terry Porter was the top scorer for Portland with 25 while Clyde Drexler and Jerome Kersey added 24 apiece.

The Bulls became the third team in a row but only the fourth in NBA history to win back-to-back titles, joining the Minneapolis Lakers, Boston Celtics, Los Angeles Lakers and Detroit Pistons.

The Blazers took a six-point lead after the first quarter and kept it at the half, leading 30-24 behind 14 points from Kersey. Jordan had 14 for Chicago in the half.

Portland opened their lead as wide as 17 points in the third quarter and had a 79-64 advantage heading into the fourth.

But with Jordan resting on the bench for 3½ minutes, Chicago

opened the final quarter with a 14-2 run to pull to within three points at 81-78 as the Blazers began committing the turnovers and wild shots that hurt them in earlier games.

Jordan scored three quick baskets on his return to give the Bulls an 89-87 lead with just under four minutes to go. It was their first lead since a 4-2 edge in the opening minutes.

Drexler scored to even it at 89 but Pippen's jumper gave Chicago the lead for good with 2:15 remaining at 91-89.

Jordan then hit a turnaround jumper and Drexler converted a pair of free throws.

Jordan drove for a layup that proved to be the last basket of the game, making it 95-91 with 35 seconds remaining.

Jerome Kersey hit two free throws with 27 seconds left but Jordan was fouled and made both shots with 11.8 seconds to seal the four-point margin for the game.

Chicago coach Phil Jackson made the key move of the game when he sent in four substitutes — Bobby Hansen, B.J. Armstrong, Stacey King and Scott Williams — to play with Pippen at the start of the fourth quarter. That was the group that turned the game around.

"We were out of sync," Jackson explained. "We needed to energize the lineup and that

lineup gave us the energy we needed."

Jordan, the most valuable player of the finals for the second successive year, said of his superb teammates: "I'm very proud of those guys. I begged them. I kissed them. I told them I loved them."

He added: "I think everybody played their ultimate best. We had to, 17 points down in the fourth quarter."

Jordan, who said he got into a "bad rhythm" early in the game, credited Pippen for taking up the slack.

"Scottie came up real big," said Jordan. "I had a rough first half, really rough."

Jordan added: "Scottie Pippen has been criticized all year for disappearing in big games. They need to let that guy alone."

Asked to compare this year's victory with last year's, Jordan said: "Winning the second time is always harder."

Jordan, who was embroiled in a series of controversies this year ranging from allegations of gambling on golf games to tales of team jealousies, said: "Last year I had seven years of determination and frustration involved."

"This year it was a personal gratification because of stuff that I dealt with."

Bulls' center Bill Cartwright was also savouring the back-to-

back victories after the team's long journey through the lean years and then the new difficulties of defending a championship.

"We kept building. Then we won the first championship," he said. "The second one is tough, real tough."

Celebrations after the championship turned violent early Monday, with looters smashing into shops. Police reported scores of arrests.

Looters hit the city's near north, west and south sides, while fans whooped, shouted and honked horns after the team's victory.

A generally peaceful celebration of the championship turned violent when rioters blocked traffic in the city's near-northside nightclub district.

After police ordered bars to close early, groups of fans made their way to fashionable clothing and jewelry shops nearby. One officer was shot in the foot.

Bulls' star Michael Jordan urged peace.

"We shouldn't tear up the city. It's our city," Jordan said in a televised interview.

For a time, outnumbered police withdrew from the celebration outside the nightclubs on Division Street, where fans leaped on top of taxicabs and hurled themselves onto the outstretched arms of members of the crowd.

Brazilian championship match ends in fight

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilian soccer players had to be separated by riot police after they started fighting at the end of a championship soccer match between Corinthians and Botafogo at the weekend.

Players kicked and aimed punches at each other after the final whistle went at the Pacembu Stadium in Sao Paulo.

The match itself, which Botafogo won 1-0, was littered with fouls and six players were booked. Valdeir scored Botafogo's goal.

Botafogo are top of Group B in the competition's semifinals, while Corinthians are languishing

at the bottom with two defeats in two games. In the other Group B Match, a Paulo Roberto penalty gave Cruzeiro a 1-0 win at home to Bragantino.

In Group A, Flamengo and Sao Paulo provided a dreadful advertisement for Brazilian soccer in a match watched by various heads of state and Earth Summit delegations at the Maracana Stadium in Rio De Janeiro.

The match was spoiled by misplaced passes and cynical fouls. Sao Paulo, who face Newell's Old Boys of Argentina in the second leg of the Libertadores Cup final Wednesday, fielded virtually a reserve team.

Berger uses wile, patience to win Canadian GP

MONTREAL (AP) — Most Formula One races are won simply with speed. However, Austria's Gerhard Berger came away with his seventh Formula One victory as the result of patience and some fast learning.

Berger, who had not won since last October in Japan, started fourth in Sunday's Canadian Grand Prix and saw immediately that the drivers in front of him — including pole-winning McLaren-Ford teammate Ayrton Senna of Brazil and series-leading Nigel Mansell of England and Williams-Renault — were going to be very hard to pass.

"It was quite a hard race at first," Berger said. "I was in fourth place and I had a very fast car, faster than Ayrton and Nigel, but it was impossible to pass. I just had to wait for things to happen."

He only had to wait through the first 14 1/2 laps on the Isle Du Notre Dame Circuit before things did begin happening in front of him.

First, Mansell tried to pass Senna and wound up driving through a sand pit and spinning to a stop in the middle of the pit straightaway, his race day done.

"Nigel realised he couldn't brake in time and tried to line up with the middle of the curb and hoped he could clear it by acceleration," explained Berger, who had only moments earlier gotten by Mansell's teammate Riccardo Patrese of Italy and was right behind the Englishman. "He hit it with such force that he landed on the car's nose."

Mansell, who refused to talk with the media, told race stewards he was forced off the track by Senna. But there was no official action.

Senna then appeared to be in total command, with his teammate guarding his rear and nobody else seemingly capable of catching him as the defending Formula One champion tried for his second straight victory.

Then, on lap 38 of the 69-lap race, Senna suddenly slowed and stopped on the course with an engine problem, watching helplessly as Berger zoomed by to take the lead.

The 32-year-old Berger, who trails only Senna (34) and Mansell (23) in total victories among active Formula One drivers, led the rest of the way. But he said it

was no cakewalk after his semi-automatic gearbox began to act up.

"Just when Ayrton was having his problem, I had a problem in my gearbox," Berger said. "I couldn't shift with the button, so I had to shift with my fingertips. It's a completely different style and it took me seven or eight laps to get used to it."

"Fortunately, I was not racing hard with someone at that time."

It was Berger's third victory in as many years with the McLaren team.

Patrese was close behind in second with Berger took the lead, but he, too, slowed with a gearbox problem on lap 44, giving the runnerup spot to Martin Brundle of England in a Benetton-Ford.

Brundle then stopped on course on lap 46, leaving the second spot to teammate Michael Schumacher of Germany. Schumacher cut the margin from eight seconds down to just over five seconds on lap 49, but Berger quickly pulled away again as Schumacher was told by his crew to slow down to conserve fuel.

Berger crossed the finish line 12.401 seconds ahead of Schumacher, with only Jean Alesi of France in a Ferrari on the lead lap with them.

Fourth place went to the March-Ilmore of Karl Wendlinger of Germany, followed in the points by Andrea De Cesaris of Italy in Tyrrell-Ilmore and Erik Comas of France in a Ligier-Renault.

"I could catch Gerhard, but I knew I couldn't pass him," Schumacher said. "In the last 10 laps, I didn't want to push because I wanted to get that second place."

Schumacher, considered the hottest young star in the Formula One series, now has two seconds and two thirds — all this season — in 13 Grand Prix starts.

Mansell, who won the first five races of the season and finished second to Senna at Monaco, still leads Patrese 56-28 in the points, with Schumacher moving closer in third with 26. Senna and Berger are now tied for fourth with 18.

The only serious accident of the race came on lap 19 when Fernando's Ivan Capell of Italy skidded through a turn and hit a concrete barrier with the right side of his car. He walked away uninjured.

Kasparov beats Kamsky in World Chess Olympiad

MANILA (R) — Russian world champion Garry Kasparov beat American Gata Kamsky Monday in 41 moves to lead his team to a 2-0 lead over the United States in the 30th World Chess Olympiad in Manila.

Kamsky, who had accused Kasparov of trying to sabotage his career when he used to live in the

now-defunct Soviet Union, resigned after 41 moves of a king's Indian defence. It was the world champion's fourth straight victory in the Olympiad.

The two bitter rivals did not shake hands before or after the game. Kamsky did not congratulate the world champion and walked out of the playing hall.

Bubka now looks upwards

PARIS (AP) — It's getting to be an annual habit. But this time Sergei Bubka's world record was something special.

The Ukrainian pole vaulter set a record for world track and field records Saturday by leaping to his 30th world mark, topping the 29 held by Finnish distance runner Paavo Nurmi.

Ironically, Bubka took the record for the most records from Nurmi on the 95th anniversary of the Finn's birth in Turku, Finland, June 13, 1897.

Bubka soared to an outdoor mark of 20 feet, 1/2 inch (6.11 metres) in the pole vault at an international track meet in Dijon. It was his 14th world outdoor record. He has 16 indoor marks.

Bubka thinks he can go well beyond his records.

"As the technology of making poles improves and as new materials come available, I can see vaulters jumping 6.3 to 6.4 (metres)," Bubka said last year. That converts to 20-8 to 21 feet.

The 28-year-old from Donyetsk has dominated his event for almost 10 years, similar to Nurmi's running reign.

After winning his first world championship in 1983, Bubka broke his first indoor mark at (5.81 metres) on Jan. 15, 1984. Since then he has broken at least one world record a year.

Bubka set the previous outdoor mark of 20-0 feet (6.10 metres) last August at Malmo, Sweden. His best indoors is 20-1 feet (6.13 metres) in February at Berlin.

The closest anyone has come to him is Russian rival Rodion Gataulin, who reached 19-9 feet (6.02 metres) in 1989 but hasn't equalled it since.

Nurmi, known as the "flying Finn," ruled distance running as no one ever did. He competed in the 1920, '24 and '28 Olympics and won nine gold medals the

most in track and field history. He won six individual golds and three team golds.

Nurmi set world records at distances from 2,000 to 20,000 metres. His record for 6 miles lasted 18 years, for 10 miles 17 years, and the mile for eight years. In the '24 Olympics, he set world records for the 1,500 and 5,000 metres in the space of one hour.

Bubka's best year was 1991, when he broke the record four times indoors and four outdoors and became the only vaulter to clear 20 feet (6.1 metres), surpassing that height six times.

Bubka was named athlete of the year for the second time by Track And Field News last year. Since winning the 1983 World Championship as a 19-year-old, Bubka has been named the top vaulter seven times. He won the 1988 Olympic gold medal and the '87 and '91 World Championships.

If the Soviet Union had not boycotted the '84 Olympics, Bubka probably would have won. He broke the world record just before and after the Los Angeles games.

Although plagued by a heel injury, he showed at the meet in Dijon that he's still the best.

"My foot still hurts, and that is why I try to be the most precise and jump the fewest jumps possible," he said.

At last year's World Championships, with his heel hurting, he cleared 19-6 on his final attempt to win the gold.

"When the event comes down to every single jump, it is you versus the bar," Bubka has said. "The vault isn't like many professions where there is nobody else that you can rely on when there is a challenge. You either make it by your own efforts, or you don't."

Swedish police detain 28 in more hooligan violence

MALMO, Sweden (R) — Swedish police Monday said they detained 28 English fans in a second night of hooligan violence at the European Soccer Championship finals.

A police spokesman in Malmo said 12 of the fans had been remanded in custody to face charges of rioting and assault and the rest were released.

An English fan was also in hospital after he was stabbed in the chest by an immigrant late Sunday night in the city centre. Police said they had arrested the assailant but did not identify him further.

The latest detentions followed a rampage shortly after midnight by at least 60 English hooligans who pelted police with bottles, chairs and benches before charging down a main street smashing windows.

The shattered windows had been repaired only hours before after a riot the previous night by up to 200 fans.

Both disturbances began at a beer tent set up for fans at the soccer finals on Malmo's Stortorget main square.

Police were heavily outnumbered when the first riot erupted but early on Monday they had 300 men — some on horseback — on duty with riot shields and dogs. The situation was quickly brought under control.

The violence involving English hooligans has been the only disturbance so far to mar the eight-nation tournament which is being

staged in four Swedish cities.

British officials said a total of 95 English fans had been detained since June 9 in Malmo, where England played goalless draws against group one rivals Denmark and France.

England play their next match against Sweden Wednesday in Stockholm where English and Swedish rowdies rioted when the two nations played there three years ago.

The officials said 29 of the 95 fans detained were in custody awaiting court appearances, 10 of them for violence-related offences.

A further 40 had been released after preliminary investigations, two had been deported and other cases were being processed, the officials said.

Six convicted English soccer hooligans identified from a British police have blacklist also been refused entry to Sweden since the tournament began.

The hooligan element among England fans is one of the most notorious in Europe.

But their behaviour had improved in recent years and the European Football Union (UEFA) announced earlier this year England would host the next championship finals in 1996.

English League clubs were banned from European competition in 1985 after 39 fans, most of them Italian, died in a riot involving Liverpool supporters at the European Cup final against Italian team Juventus in Brussels.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JUNE 16, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If you rely on your hunches and engage in endeavors that concern art, music, color and beauty you will have a truly satisfying day that will prove to be most rewarding and unique.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find early you do not have the release of space in which to attend to your cherished desires but this soon passes and you are able to achieve much of value.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Conditions at home early are a lot of what you would like to be but later you find everything becomes more pleasant there and you have a happy time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Consider well any communications in which you engage in today, but as a matter of fact you have better results if you wait until tonight to acknowledge.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Financial affairs may seem to have a block connected with them but by a thoughtful stance you can get them to work to your advantage.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You feel early that you are thwarted in gaining a cherished aim but you soon find by your magnetic personality you can get whatever you do desire.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) In the evening you can have a very happy time with your romantic attachment after a day in which you uncover and remove debilitating influence.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take some time out now to find what needs to be revised in order to gain your personal ambitions and then you can gain with little or no effort.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go to the most influential person you know in the evening and get the backing you desire to express your most worldly ambitions after a day planning conversation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) It may look early as though you can't put into motion those new interests yet persevere and you and make most rapid progress towards them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consider well whatever your present promises are and you will be able to get them in back of you and greatly please any with whom you have contact.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Confine yourself today to see and being with generous minded persons who are conventional and conservative in their views and get their support.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You feel your surroundings are not just as you wish them to be but you are now able to see improved ways to have the harmony and accord there that will please you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I took the jelly out of your doughnut and replaced it with steamed cabbage."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SASEY

HIGEW

ONASAT

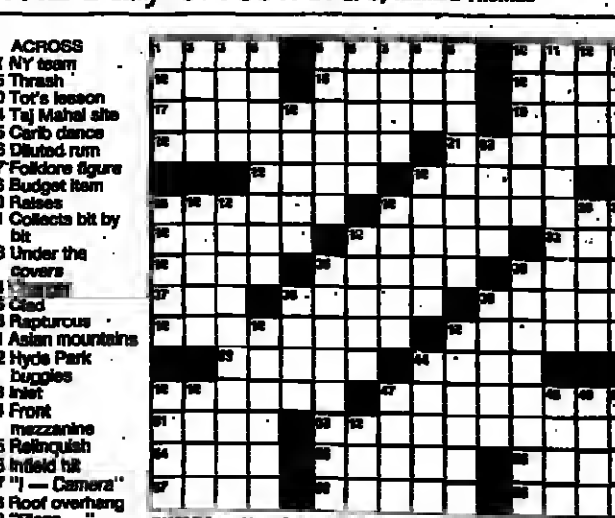
SPLEET

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: DUMPY FAINT JITNEY PALACE
Answer: What kind of remarks did the pancake chef make? — "FLIP-PANT" ONES

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solution:

1 NY team
2 Thrash
3 Chile person
4 Tqj Mahal site
5 Cerro dance
16 Dubois rum
17 Folded figure
18 Budget item
20 Release
21 Collects bit by bit
22 Under the covers
23 Whistle
24 Clad
25 Rapturous
26 Asian mountains
32 Hyde Park
33 Duggles
34 Inert
35 Front mezzanine
36 Relinquish
37 Infield tie
37 "I — Camera"
38 Roof overhang
39 "Piazza"
40 Casino patron
42 Chin. game
43 Sore spot
44 Mid explosive
45 Roof part
47 Filing
51 News
52 Financial backer
54 Foment
55 "The Tempest"
56 Cop and drop endings
57 Gambling game
58 Broadway musical
59 "How the — Was Won"
6 Hall-of-Fame coach Hank
9 "—, no see"
10 Concave
11 "Bounty" cargo
12 Hartford's state abbr.
13 Former opht.
14 Native ones
22 Minus
24 East European
25 Siberian prison
26 Redolence
27 Well
28 Bramble
29 Utah mountains
30 Cause to be tardy
32 Road repairer
35 Cantata's predecessor
36 Cottage
38 Coal ending
39 — Domingo
41 Maratona's foe
42 Carver and Irving
45 Hezard
46 Chip in
47 Out
48 Depressed
49 Tarras calls
50 Formerly, once
53 After second or moment

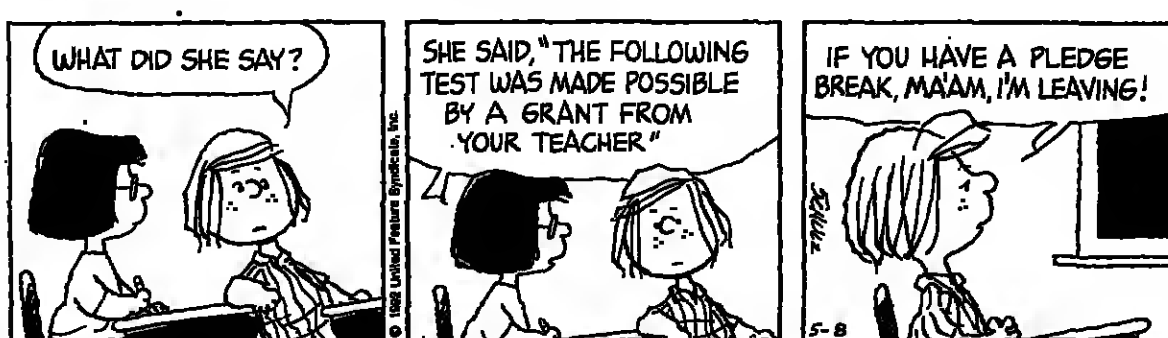
GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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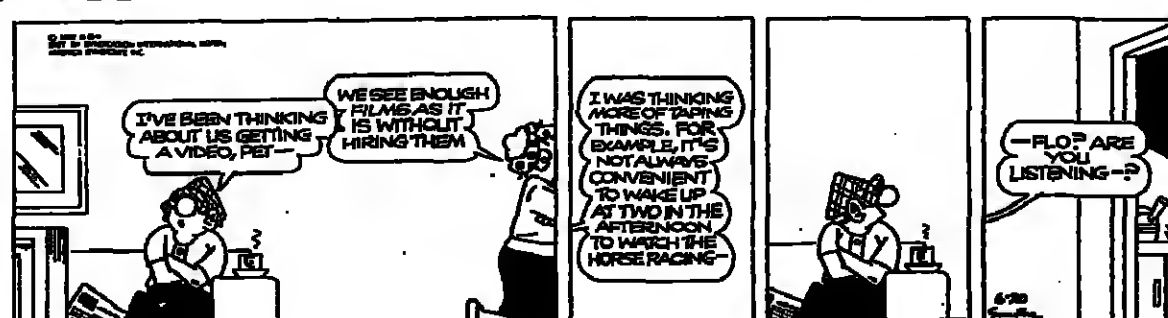
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠A974 ♣8 ♠AQJ87 ♠AKJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass
? What do you bid now?
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠K76 ♣KQ632 ♠QJ6 ♠52
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♠ Pass 1♣ Pass
2NT Pass ? What do you bid now?
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠KJ4 ♣KQ632 ♠AQ6 ♠762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♠ Pass 1♣ Pass
2NT Pass ? What do you bid now?
- Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠K945 ♣786 ♠9 ♠J97642
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
3♠ Dbl ? What action do you take?
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠Q765 ♣K1093 ♠83 ♠982
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
2NT Pass ? What action do you take?
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠K962 ♣A107 ♠KQ983 ♠J5
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♠ Pass 1♣ Pass
2♠ Pass ? What do you bid now?

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



India seeks European help to better banking supervision

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — India is seeking European help in setting up a new banking supervisory body to prevent another Bombay stock market scandal, the head of the country's central bank said Sunday.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor S. Venkatarman said he was interested in learning what instructions the Bank of England and other banking supervisors in Europe gave auditors for inspecting the books at commercial banks.

"Fraud is the most difficult thing to detect," he added in an interview with Reuters. Detectives have begun an investigation into allegations that banks or their treasury officials colluded with stockbrokers in leading huge sums of money

through bankers' receipts that were either uncovered or possibly fraudulent.

Mr. Venkatarman, in Basel for the annual meeting of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), said the 30 billion rupee (\$1.1 billion) Bombay scam had made the Indian government speed up its reform of the banking system.

The top priority was to set up the supervisory board, which would draw on the expertise of the Reserve Bank of India and include auditors, lawyers and other specialists, he said.

"Everyone is now convinced that there's need for reform, for modernisation of the system, better settlement procedures, and better supervision and inspec-

tion," he added.

London-based Standard Chartered Bank has started legal action to recover £162 million (\$300 million) involved in the fraud, and has made a precautionary provision of £50 million (\$92 million).

Mr. Venkatarman, who had talks with Standard Chairman Rodney Galpin last week, said he was convinced some Standard officials in Bombay were involved in the scandal.

"There must have been low levels in the (Standard) hierarchy who were involved in the fraud," he said.

"If we just believe they were honest errors, then we are forgetting one aspect of this. This involved collusion between the ... official and the fellow who has

cheated the bank. Obviously Standard Chartered top management was cheated," he pointed out.

Other banks caught up in the scandal include the government-owned State Bank of India (SBI), which is said by the RBI to have channelled 170 billion rupees (\$6.5 billion) into the Bombay stock market between July 1991 and April 1992.

Mr. Venkatarman said ANZ Grindlays Bank was also involved and had been ordered to make a provision.

"They have agreed to make a provision without prejudice to their legal rights," he added, but declined to give further details. ANZ has denied that it was involved in any illegal deals.

GPA says aviation industry has recovered

DUBLIN (R) — The head of the world's largest aircraft-leasing firm is convinced the aviation industry has recovered from the Gulf war and the international recession.

"I think the confidence is coming back right now," said Tony Ryan, chairman of Guinness Peat Aviation (GPA) which is on the brink of a global flotation.

Analysts have said the timing of the flotation is wrong because air traffic fell last year for the first time and the world has too many aircraft.

But Mr. Ryan disagrees. "We placed a record number of aircraft last year in the worst year in aviation history — over 160 airplanes," he told Reuters Monday.

"In the first five months of this year we have placed 22 aircraft a month. I think the (leasing) rates will pick up gradually. Production is coming down. Last year was a record production year of 850

aircraft. That will get down to 600-650 aircraft by 1994," he pointed out.

The global share offer, which closes in Britain and Ireland Tuesday, will raise between \$800 million and \$1 billion for GPA group PLC and give it a market capitalisation of up to \$3.6 billion. The share price will be between \$10 and \$12.50.

"This is a capital-intensive industry and you need the money. The industry's requirement for finance over the next 18 years is \$850 billion. It is a fantastic opportunity for us," Mr. Ryan said.

Mr. Ryan stressed: "We won't have any requirement to go back to the market for a few years anyway unless some very significant commercial opportunity occurred. I think we are two to three years away from that."

Mr. Ryan, an Irish railwayman's son whose brainchild has made him a multi-millionaire, is

fiercely proud of GPA's success in raising its net profits by two per cent to \$268 million in the year to March 31.

"If we had gone (public) in 1989 or 1990, people would have said 'GPA, you have been through the golden years of aviation. What would happen if you have a world recession, what would happen if you have a world war, what if terrorism happens to raise its head?' The fact we have been through last year and increased our profits is remarkable. That two per cent is magic," he said proudly.

"During the Gulf war 25 per

cent of our customers were in intensive care, 75 per cent of them were fine. That is the global hedging we have got," he added.

Asked to name the big aviation growth markets of the future, he singled out China, India, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Malaysia and Indonesia.

From their base at Shannon Airport in western Ireland, GPA executives have flown around the world on an international road-show drumming up support for the flotation, seeking an even spread between the London, Tokyo and New York markets.

Wall Street seen struggling higher this summer

NEW YORK (R) — Facing a sluggish but steady economic recovery and uncertainty over the U.S. presidential election, Wall Street should continue its upward climb this summer but may have to struggle, financial analysts say.

While the market is currently focused on the state of the economy and Federal Reserve monetary policy, by mid-July attention will turn to second-quarter corporate earnings and the November election, analysts said.

"I think we're going to struggle higher," said Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer at first Albany Co. "Despite certain concerns in the market, the trend is still positive."

"I believe prices are going to be headed higher, particularly because I think the economic and earnings news is going to remain upbeat," Mr. Johnson added.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up three to 3354.36 on Friday, inching back up after a 61-point decline earlier in the week. The Dow hit its 22nd closing record high of 3413.21 on June 1, but other market indices have lagged behind.

The latest indications on the economy — a slight 0.1 per cent rise in May consumer prices and a smaller-than-expected 0.2 per cent increase in retail sales — depict a slow recovery with little inflation, analysts said.

That perception should help stocks do well this summer but

provide little impetus for a major move in either direction.

"I think we're going to stay in a pretty narrow trading range with the bias being slightly higher," said Philip Orlando, equity portfolio manager at Unity Management Inc.

Mr. Orlando said the Dow should remain in a range of 3300 to 3400 over the near term and, at best, will rise to 3600 by year end.

"GDP (gross domestic product) growth is about less than half of what you normally get coming out of a recession, so there will be no explosive rebound in corporate earnings this year. That's why 3400 is my target on the down near-term," he said.

While the November election has not yet become a major market factor, analysts said President George Bush's slumping rating in the polls and Ross Perot's soaring popularity could begin to pressure stocks later in the summer when the Democratic and Republican national conventions are held.

"The big problem facing the market is the mess in Washington and the uncertainty that the presidential election holds in November," said Alfred Goldman, director of technical research at A.G. Edwards and Sons.

"My sense is that the uncertainty will keep the market just backing and filling a little for the next month or so," Mr. Goldman said.

'Reform is also a revolution'

BEIJING (R) — China's Communist Party chief told the nation Sunday that Beijing's new campaign for economic reform would revolutionise Chinese socialism.

In a speech that dominated the main evening television and radio news broadcasts, Jiang Zemin threw his weight behind senior Deng Xiaoping's push for faster reform and criticised hardline party leftists for trying to "confuse the people" with revolutionary slogans.

"Our experiment with socialism has entered a new phase of development," Mr. Jiang said. "We must take the road that will give those below (the people) more room, not the road which will obstruct them."

Mr. Jiang said the communist leadership was firmly committed to dismantling China's command economy and promoting capitalist-style changes — which so far have included allowing experiments with securities and future

markets and freeing many prices.

The speech by the 65-year-old Jiang, hailed as the "core" of the next generation of China's leadership, is the latest step in the elegantly understated power-struggle that Mr. Deng and his supporters have waged against hardline opponents since the beginning of the year.

"Delivered on June 9 at the party's main theoretical training ground, the Central Party School, Mr. Jiang's speech said Mr. Deng's prescription of speedy economic development would save China's socialist system."

Deng's correct policies ... are the main reason our experiment with socialism can overcome serious difficulties amid an unstable international situation," he told an audience of provincial level communist cadres.

"Reform is also a revolution," he declared.

Mr. Jiang, who took office

after the bloody military suppression of pro-democracy protests in 1989, saved harsh words for the elderly hardliners who have resisted what they see as Mr. Deng's betrayal of socialist principles.

"In the history of our party, 'leftist' mistakes have been prevalent for a long time and had a deep effect," Mr. Jiang said.

"Because 'leftism' always seems to fly the colours of revolution, it is easily used to confuse the people. This should remind our leading cadres to pay special attention to preventing interference from the left," he stressed.

As the Communist Party's general secretary, Mr. Jiang underlined Mr. Deng's demand that the party must maintain control over politics while it allows economic change.

"Our reform is a reform of the socialist system... its goal is to make our socialist system more perfect," Mr. Jiang said. "Politico-

al reform does not mean we will take the road of western democracy."

The national dissemination of Mr. Jiang's speech is a boost for the party chief, who had been largely sidelined since the 87-year-old Deng launched his pro-reform blitz in January.

Although he did weigh in late in May with a pro-reform speech to a group of college graduates, Mr. Jiang has remained thoroughly overshadowed by his elderly mentor.

By allowing Mr. Jiang to launch the next wave of reformist propaganda, Mr. Deng may be trying to keep his campaign rolling while positioning Mr. Jiang more squarely as a legitimate successor, political analysts said.

"These campaigns are like throwing the people a bone," one diplomat said. "This time, they are throwing them a bone with a little more meat on it."

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
One Sterling	1.8570/80	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1911/16	Canadian dollar	
	1.5677/87	Deutschemarks	
	1.7675/85	Dutch guilders	
	1.4100/10	Swiss francs	
	32.29/33	Belgian francs	
	5.2825/75	French francs	
	1187/1188	Italian lire	
	126.45/55	Japanese yen	
	5.6600/10	Swedish crowns	
	6.1360/410	Norwegian crowns	
	6.0430/80	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	342.39/342.80	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Fading hope of easier credit sent the Nikkei Average skidding 430.45 points to 16,953.23, its first close below 17,000 since April 22.

HONG KONG — Closed until Tuesday for a public holiday. The Hang Seng Index slipped 7.47 points Friday to close 5,819.07.

FRANKFURT — German shares dropped by around half a per cent in a downturn prompted mainly by a fall in the chemical and pharmaceutical majors. The DAX-30 Index closed 8.37 down, at 1,773.90.

LONDON — The new trading account in the London market got off to a poor start with shares continuing last week's losing streak. The FTSE 100 Index shed 10.1 to close at 2,593.6.

PARIS — French share prices ended lower for the sixth day running but recovered from session troughs. Dealers said the market suffered from weakness in franc bond futures but got some support in late trading from a stronger showing on Wall Street. The CAC-40 Index closed at 1,918.14, a loss of 10.15.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips staged a recovery at midday as bargain-hunting and buy programmes erased early weakness sparked by concerns over second quarter earnings and sharp losses in overseas markets, analysts said. The Dow edged higher, trading up four to 3,358 at midday.

Yeltsin issues bankruptcy decree

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin Monday ordered thousands of inefficient state-owned enterprises to pay back their debts or be sold to private owners.

A new presidential decree says those enterprises unable to pay back their arrears to the state budget or creditors for three months would be considered bankrupt. They are to be sold at auctions accessible to foreign investors.

The decree appears to be a major step in Mr. Yeltsin's drive towards a market economy and a reform signal to the West that his reform programme is irreversible.

The Russian parliament earlier this month refused to pass a draft law on bankruptcy presented by the government.

The new decree circumvents the legislature's opposition. It says a government committee in charge of state property would temporarily take the bankrupt enterprises over and organise auctions.

If a rescue plan by the new owners fail to bear fruit, an independent manager would be hired by the state.

Mr. Yeltsin said economic reforms in his country would be "absolutely irreversible" by 1996 when his term of office expires, in an interview broadcast on Sunday by U.S. television.

The Russian president was asked if his pledge that he would not be dictated to by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) gave the impression that he was slowing, reversing or reversing economic reforms.

"No the reforms are going ahead. No matter how difficult. Only ahead. Only ahead. The reforms will work in this country," he answered, speaking through an interpreter.

"I've announced that I won't run in 1996. That gives me the chance to move much faster, not worrying whether my popularity is two per cent up or two per cent down," he pointed out.

He was asked if his pledge not to run for reelection would make him a lame duck.

"By 1996 the reforms will be absolutely irreversible here. There will be no turning back for Russia," Mr. Yeltsin said.

The Russian President ex-

ploded when the CBS reporter interviewing him told she had seen two babies die in hospital in St. Petersburg for lack of antibiotics.

"Then why don't you give us antibiotics? you are a rich country," he told the American reporter.

"I have my own mother who had a heart attack, she's lying in a hospital ward with 10 other patients. There is no medicine to treat her heart. I myself had to bring some medicine for her from Moscow. And this is the mother of a president," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin stomped away and refused to answer further questions.

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Applicants must mail their handwritten applications with c.v.s., recent photograph and academic and experience certificates to:

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N.B. Applicant must be ready to start work immediately.

Oman focuses on gas industry

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Oman is increasingly focusing on boosting its natural gas reserves and is working on a liquefied gas project with a capacity of five million tonnes a year with Japanese partners, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The respected oil industry newsletter quoted the sultanate's petroleum and minerals minister, Said Bin Ahmad Al Shanfari, as saying in an interview that Oman's gas reserves now stand at 17 trillion cubic feet (476 billion cubic metres).

Some studies indicate that reserves could be as high as 33-34 trillion cubic feet (924-952 billion cubic metres), he said.

Mr. Al Shanfari said the government plans to set aside enough reserves for 50 years of domestic consumption and for the \$9 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) project over 20 years, which it estimates will require seven trillion cubic feet (196 billion cubic metres).

If new gas reserves are discovered, the government may consider new gas-based industries such as methanol, fertilisers and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE).

Environmental concerns in the West have catapulted MTBE, an oxygenate enhancer, into being the world's most sought-after chemical compound. Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states are pressing to establish production facilities.

On the LNG project, the government will own and operate the upstream facilities, and has hired the Petroleum Development of Oman Company (PDO) to undertake exploration and development of fields.

In addition, Oman is also pursuing investment options overseas through the Oman Oil Co., the oil ministry's foreign investment arm, Mr. Al Shanfari said.

Oman has opened negotiations with Iran about possibly developing the offshore West Bulka and Henjam in the Gulf, where natural and liquid gas has been lo-

cated, MEES reported.

Talks are also underway with Qatar about possible imports of Qatari gas through a spur line from Fujairah if a proposed gas pipeline between Qatar and Pakistan materialises.

Oman has shown interest in using this gas either to establish joint ventures with Qatar or to set up gas-based industries of its own to diversify the sultanate's sources of revenue and provide jobs.

Mr. Al Shanfari said the oil companies have shown little interest in gas, so the Omani government will develop this sector on its own and allocated 10 million riyals (\$26 million) a year for gas exploration in the 1985-90 development plan.

This has boosted proven reserves and current planning includes a three-year appraisal programme of 12 wells costing 47 million riyals (\$122 million) in the Said Rawi, Said Nihayada, Barik and Mabruk fields which would supply gas for the LNG project.

Oman's oil production, its economic mainstay, is rising steadily and is expected to reach 750,000 barrels a day by the end of the year, Mr. Al Shanfari said.

Most of the anticipated increase will come from PDO's Lekhwair field, where a \$500 million water-injection programme to enhance output is scheduled for completion in the first half of next year.

Lekhwair, which has been producing 25,000 barrels a day, is expected to have its capacity increased to around 120,000 barrels a day.

More new production of around 5,000-10,000 barrels a day of condensates and 100 million cubic feet (2.8 million cubic metres) of natural gas is expected to come on stream in early 1993 from the offshore Bulka field operated by the Canadian International Petroleum Corp.

Oman has oil reserves of around 4.55 billion barrels and there are plans to boost these by some 150 million barrels this year.

Jordan Times
Tel.: 667171

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Happy Feast

World Resources
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ANNOUNCEMENT for contractors who applied for pre-qualification King Abdullah Hospital — J.U.S.T. Tender No. 005

Thank you for your interest in prequalifying for King Abdullah Hospital, J.U.S.T. Tender No. 005. However, and as a comparatively long period of time has elapsed since you have submitted your prequalification documents, you are kindly asked to firstly confirm your interest in the tender, and secondly submit any updating, supplementary or further information you may find necessary and important at or before 12 noon of Monday July 6th, 1992.

On the other hand, we find it beneficial to draw your attention to the importance of complying with clause 16 of the Jordanian Contractors' Law which stipulates the share of Jordanian local contractors in the tender by at least 25 per cent in terms of joint venture or as nominated sub-contractors. Meanwhile, Jordan University of Science and Technology has the pleasure in giving a chance for international contractors who could not apply at the first advertisement to prequalify for the construction, completion and maintenance of the King Abdullah Hospital. The project consists of 15 floor cruciform tower block and horizontal low-rise buildings to accommodate around 650 beds. Applications for prequalification are obtained on payment of JD (100) one hundred Jordan dinars from and should be submitted to:

The Secretary General, Central Tendering Committee, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid, Jordan. P.O.Box (2630) at or before 12 noon of Monday July 6th, 1992.

For further information, please contact:
The Director, Department of Engineering Projects, J.U.S.T. Telephone: 295111 Ext. 3886, Telex: 55545 JUST JO, Fax: 295123

Cinema Tel: 677420

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Today and everyday at 8:30 p.m.

The Musical Play

TIME FOR WHOM

In conjunction with the National Troupe for Traditional Arts directed by Mohammad Dimour

SOON Sindbad and Shahrazad play directed by Hakim Harb

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1. Licence for Death, Van Dam
Shows at 11:30 a.m., 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

2. Ghost

Shows at: 1:30 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625135

RAINBOW

Adel Imam & Yusra in

AL IRHAB AND KEBAB

(Arabic)

Shows: 3:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45

Azeri offensive gathers pace in Karabakh

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijani armed forces using tanks and artillery stepped up a four-day-old offensive around the Armenian-populated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh Monday, reports from the area said.

The upsurge in fighting came as talks opened in Rome to find a settlement and neighbouring Russia appealed for an end to the violence.

Reports from both sides said Azerbaijani armoured units drove Armenian defenders out of the Shumyay district, an Armenian-populated valley just to the north of Karabakh.

The independent Snark News Agency, reporting from the Armenian side, said Azeri forces simultaneously captured 18 Armenian villages in separate armoured attacks to the south and southeast of the enclave.

It said there were several dozen Armenian dead and up to 150 wounded.

The latest round of fighting in a war that has claimed around 2,000 lives in the past five years began last month when Armenian fight-

ers punched open a corridor across the narrow strip of territory dividing Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh.

Snark said fierce battles were taking place in the area of Askeran, Martakert and Gadut — all towns to the east and southeast of Karabakh.

Reports from the Armenian side of the bitter conflict accused Azerbaijan of using Russian mercenaries from units of the former Soviet army to spearhead their counter-offensive, which began Friday.

In last month's fighting the fledgling armed forces of Azerbaijan proved to be no match for the Armenian fighters.

The continuing violence cast a long shadow over 11-nation talks hosted by the Italian government in Rome under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

The Italian chairman of the talks condemned the latest clashes and appealed to the two sides to stop fighting. In Moscow, a Russian government statement

also called for an immediate end to bloodshed.

Snark reported Azeri that overnight rocket and artillery attacks on border villages inside Armenia itself had killed three people.

The Asa-Isra News Agency reported from the Azerbaijani capital Baku that Azeri forces captured the town of Gulistan, the last Armenian-held stronghold in Shumyay district.

The report, quoting the chief of staff of an Azeri battalion, said 10 Armenian fighters and four Azeri soldiers died in the clash. There was no confirmation from the Armenian side.

In Armenia, a spokesman for the Karabakh Committee confirmed the loss of Shumyay. He said Azeri forces were using more than 300 tanks and armoured fighting vehicles, helicopters and attack planes.

This is the first time the situation has been so complicated in Karabakh, he said by telephone from Yerevan.

"We never imagined that the

Azeris could deploy so many tanks and so many airplanes."

The Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh again failed to send representatives to the Rome talks.

Italian diplomats said the Armenians had stated that their leaders could not travel to Rome because of the military situation.

An earlier round of talks ended on June 5 with Italy reporting a consensus on sending international observers to take up positions between the two sides.

Last Friday, however, Azerbaijan launched a major offensive to regain some of the territory they lost in the May when the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians pushed a corridor through Azerbaijan to link the enclave directly to Armenia.

In a further complication, Armenian diplomats are worried that Azerbaijan may now be planning to drive a corridor through Armenian territory to the Azeri region of Nakhichevan, bordered by Iran, Turkey and Armenia.

Armenia's official position is that it is not involved in the struggle but that it sympathises with the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians' wish for independence from Azerbaijan.

The Rome talks are aimed at paving the way for a full peace conference in the Belarus capital, Minsk.

Azerbaijan has been deeply suspicious of the Minsk conference, due to open on June 23, fearing it could set an international seal on recent Armenian military successes.

Before the latest round of fighting, Italian mediators were hoping to negotiate an agreement under which the Armenians would withdraw from the corridor linking Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia.

This proposed demilitarising the area and placing it under the control of CSCE monitors, with free passage guaranteed between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Azeri sovereignty over the corridor was to have been fully recognised.

Shelling interrupts new Yugoslav ceasefire

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Mortar attacks and an infantry assault were reported Monday in Sarajevo, only hours after a ceasefire between the Bosnian government and rival Serb forces was to take effect.

Bosnian Defence Minister Jerko Doko protested the attacks to U.N. peacekeepers in the Bosnian capital, according to the Bosnian News Agency (BNA).

BH said 12 grenades landed in downtown Sarajevo Monday morning and a Serb infantry assault was repelled in a suburb.

Sarajevo TV journalist Rasim Borcuk told the Associated Press in a separate report that the shelling set two houses on fire.

The Bosnian Defence Force reported that shelling of Sarajevo resumed after 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) when a ceasefire was supposed to take effect.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said the airport area and other Serb-controlled areas in Sarajevo were peaceful overnight and early Monday.

The latest U.N.-sponsored ceasefire agreement between the Bosnian government and rival Serb forces was signed late Sunday. It was to take effect at 6 a.m. Monday. More than a dozen previous truces have failed.

Radovan Karadzic, the Serb leader in Bosnia, declared a unilateral ceasefire, also to take effect at 6 a.m.

Mr. Borcuk also said the latest reports from Mostar, an embattled town in southwest Bosnia-Herzegovina, indicated Muslim-Croat forces were advancing, defeating Serbian fighters on the left bank of the Neretva River.

"Heavy fighting is now going on around the Serb stronghold at Mostar airport," Mr. Borcuk said.

Despite the prospect of a ceasefire, Tanjug reported Sunday that 17 people were killed in the Sarajevo area in the 24-hour period before a lapse in the fighting Sunday morning.

More than 15,000 people have been killed since last June in brief fighting in Slovenia, and the Croatian and Bosnian civil wars. All three republics, along with Macedonia, have declared their independence from Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, U.N. negotiators tried to organise the withdrawal of Serbian soldiers and arms from around the Sarajevo airport to reopen it for humanitarian flights. The results of the first U.N. inspection said the airport "was in a good condition."

Belgrade TV reported late Sunday. The Bosnian capital has been forced to the brink of starvation by a nearly 3-month-old siege by Serb fighters.

In Belgrade, the Serbian capital, students scheduled a three-hour protest in front of the main university building.

The students have demanded that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic resign, a transition government be formed, and new elections be held for a constituent assembly.

Opposition to Mr. Milosevic has been growing, especially in the wake of harsh U.N. sanctions imposed two weeks ago over Serbia's role in the Bosnia fighting.

Sarajevo's attackers and defenders battled early Sunday for strategic high ground. Later, a lull in the fighting let residents venture from their shelters to search for scarce food and bury their dead.

Electricity remained sporadic throughout the city of 600,000 people, but water service had been restored in some areas.

Gaidar named acting Russian premier

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Monday named economic reform supremo Yegor Gaidar as acting Russian prime minister, a presidential spokesman said.

It was not immediately clear whether the appointment would become permanent or was only in effect for the duration of Mr. Yeltsin's five-day state visit to North America.

Mr. Gaidar, who is a first deputy prime minister, has led Russia's radical economic reforms for the last six months.

Word of the presidential decree came just minutes before Mr. Yeltsin and his entourage left for the airport to fly to Washington to meet President George Bush. He later goes on to Canada.

The decree said Mr. Gaidar would "fulfil the duties of the prime minister of the Russian Federation." Mr. Yeltsin has served as his own prime minister but indicated he would hand over the post in the future.

Mr. Gaidar, 36, has been a favourite target of ex-Communists and other conservatives opposed to Russia's drive towards a market economy.

In Washington, Mr. Yeltsin will likely argue that his recent softening of free market reforms was necessary to prevent a social explosion.

The Russian President is going to Washington to secure U.S. help in insuring an infusion of \$24 billion in Western aid and credits.

To gain the aid Mr. Yeltsin must



Yegor Gaidar

show a firm commitment to economic reform and democracy. But the hardships springing up on the path to a free market create powerful pressure on him to back away from reform measures.

"By no means will I allow a retreat on economic reforms," Mr. Yeltsin said in advance of his arrival in Washington Monday.

In an effort to demonstrate that his goal is to reform rather than to rule Russia, Mr. Yeltsin said on May 27 that he would not seek a second five-year presidential term in 1996.

But he promised the popular pressure would not drive him from office early. "Only the lord can command me to resign," the ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying Sunday after a church service at which he sought "cleansing" for the trip.

To help argue the case in Washington, Mr. Yeltsin is taking

with him Mr. Gaidar.

Mr. Yeltsin said he hopes his meetings with Mr. Bush and other Western leaders in Munich next month "will finally break the knot" holding back the multi-billion-dollar government commitment that Mr. Yeltsin says will lead to even greater private foreign investment in Russia.

But the Russian president "is going to have some problems," said one of Mr. Yeltsin's biggest Western boosters, U.S. Ambassador Boh Strass. "There should be some tough negotiations," Mr. Strass predicted in a session with reporters a week before the summit.

Meanwhile, an adviser to Mr. Yeltsin says she does not rule out a coup attempt against the Russian president, Newsweek magazine reported Sunday.

However, the adviser, Galina Starovikova, said a coup attempt probably would not come from the KGB or the army.

She said in a May 28 interview that Mr. Yeltsin was counting on the economy improving and people taking more responsibility.

"Already, they no longer wait for the government to give them everything... we also see that store shelves, which at first were empty, are now full of goods. The panic has eased," she said.

"Attempts at a new putsch can't be ruled out. But I don't think that it will come from the top, from the army or the KGB — at least not in an open and obvious form, like last August," she said.

Japan troops bill becomes law

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ruling party ignored desperate opposition tactics Monday and cleared the way for passage of a controversial bill allowing dispatch of troops abroad as U.N. peacekeepers.

The opening of the final plenary session of the lower house on the peacekeeping operation (PKO) bill was delayed for about eight hours because all 137 Socialist members of the house offered their resignations as a last resort.

Voting was expected to be completed by about 9 p.m. (1200 GMT), parliamentary officials said.

The Socialists boycotted the session, enabling the ruling Liberal Party (LDP) to smoothly vote on the bill.

It would permit up to 2,000 Japanese soldiers to be sent abroad as U.N. peacekeepers under certain conditions.

Socialists say the measure violates a constitutional ban on using military force to settle international disputes. Japanese troops have not served overseas since World War II.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Japan had been criticised for not sending personnel abroad to help international efforts to resolve conflicts, and said these must come from the self-defence forces.

Four members of a small Socialist splinter group also submitted resignations, bringing the total of 141 members of the 512-seat house.

Resignations of members of parliament must be approved by the chamber in which they sit, and the ruling party has a comfortable majority in the house.

In the end, however, House Speaker Yoshio Sakurachi ignored the resignations and called a plenary session late Monday to settle the PKO bill.

Final voting on the bill came 20 months of heated debate, desperate opposition manoeuvring and two revisions by the LDP. The revised bill was approved by the upper house earlier this month.

"All Socialist members of the House of Representatives have submitted resignations because the PKO bill would reverse Japan's post-war 'peace' policy and because and because public opinion on the bill is sharply divided," the Socialist said.

"We the Socialists see the need for a dissolution of the House of Representatives and general elections to seek voters' judgment on the bill."

Lithuanians demand rapid Soviet pullout

VILNIUS, Lithuania (R) — Lithuanians voted overwhelmingly to demand the immediate pullout of former Soviet troops from their country and the payment of reparations, according to early results released Monday.

Preliminary figures from the Lithuanian parliament showed more than 90 per cent of those casting ballots Sunday voted "yes" to the statement:

"I demand that the former Soviet army withdrawal from Lithuania start at once, finish in 1992 and that compensation be paid to the Lithuanian people and state for damages."

About 75 per cent of eligible voters turned out, with just 7.2 per cent casting "no" ballots. In all, 68.6 per cent of possible voters supported the measure,

well over the legal target for approval of 50 per cent plus one.

But the vote was a largely symbolic one, as the Kremlin insists it cannot even begin a withdrawal for at least two years because of a shortage of housing and jobs for returning officers.

Moscow is already faced with repatriating thousands of officers from elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

U.N. disarmament meeting opens in Japan

TOKYO (R) — About 200 experts from 19 countries opened a United Nations conference in Hiroshima Monday to discuss ways to cut back on arms in the post-cold war era.

High on the agenda at the four-day conference were questions on how to stop the spread of weapons on mass destruction, including nuclear arms, along with ways to promote confidence-building measures in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Our new priority is to foster constructive political change... to establish the highest degree of transparency and confidence

(among countries)," said Provoslav Davinc, director of the U.N. Office for Disarmament Affairs, in a speech prepared for his opening address to the United Nations conference on disarmament issues.

Mitsuro Donawaki, Japanese ambassador to the Geneva disarmament conference, praised both the United States and the former Soviet Union for dramatically reducing their stocks of nuclear weapons.

"The nuclear disarmament process between the United States and Russia has progressed at an unprecedented speed," he

said in his opening speech, made available here.

However, Mr. Donawaki warned against the spread of weapons of mass destruction, saying that Iraq had acquired a massive military arsenal.

"The danger of the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union," he said.

He urged North Korea to open its research facilities to international inspection, to dispel "concerns in the international community regarding its development of nuclear weapons."

Aquino grilled in court, rejects libel apology

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino, testifying in a libel case, insisted on Monday that a Philippine journalist damaged her reputation by saying she hid under a bed during a coup attempt.

Defence lawyer Renato Cayetano kept Mrs. Aquino in the witness box for more than two hours in an attempt to demonstrate that popular Manila columnist Luis Beltran did not intend to malign her.

Mrs. Aquino sued Mr. Beltran, publisher Maximino Soliven and three other executives of the Philippine Star for libel after Mr. Beltran wrote in the daily newspaper that she "hid under his bed" when rebel soldiers attacked the presidential palace in a coup attempt in August 1987.

Mr. Cayetano read out in court a subsequent column in which Mr. Beltran said he had not intended to portray Mrs. Aquino as a coward and that he was merely using a figure of speech.

"I did not consider (the later column) as a complete apology because he... made no mention of the fact that indeed I did not hide under my bed," Mrs. Aquino told Judge Ramon Makasari.

"It damaged my reputation," she said.

Exchanges between Mr. Cayetano and prosecution lawyers occupied much of the time Mrs. Aquino spent in the witness box. The prosecution accused the defence of belabouring points that had been raised before.

Mrs. Aquino initially appeared engrossed or amused by the debate but later looked bored and impatient.

"I don't want to hold you here any longer, Your Excellency, but this just happens to be my job," Mr. Cayetano said at one point. A crowd of about 100 people broke into applause when Mrs. Aquino appeared in court, dressed

in white and surrounded by bodyguards.

It was the second time that Mrs. Aquino, who has survived six army coup attempts since she took office in 1986, has testified in the libel case in which she is seeking four million pesos (\$153,000) in damages.

Mrs. Aquino, who leaves office on June 30, said she would donate the money to charity if she won.

When she first testified last year, Mrs. Aquino became the first incumbent Philippine president to appear in court.

Mr. Beltran's lawyers called her to the court on Monday in an attempt to show that the journalist could not have wilfully maligned Aquino because they were friends and that their families were close to each other.

Mrs. Aquino admitted she had known Mr. Beltran as a family friend since the 1960s, that she once sent him a picture with her

personal dedication on its and that she attended a birthday for Mr. Beltran and gave him two tins of imported chocolates.

The lawyer also suggested that Mrs. Aquino and Mr. Beltran's wife once played mahjong, a Chinese game played with tiles. "I don't think I've ever played mahjong with her," the president said.

Mrs. Aquino testified that she was asleep when sounds of gunfire near the palace awakened her before dawn on Aug. 28, 1987.

After learning that rebel soldiers were attacking, she said she called then armed forces chief Fidel Ramos and told him to put down the mutiny quickly "before the end of the day."

Loyal forces quelled the revolt after about 20 hours.

Mr. Ramos now appears likely to succeed Mrs. Aquino as president. He is reportedly ahead in a much-delayed vote count following elections on May 11.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

S. African police seize huge arms cache

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police said Monday they had seized more than 2,000 weapons on a township commuter train in one of the largest single arms caches confiscated. A policeman was hurt when he was thrown from a train during the raid on the Soweto line on Sunday, which saw 27 people arrested, 39 guns, 361 rounds of ammunition and more than 2,000 other weapons seized. The weapons, which filled two coaches, were found on trains taking people to a rally staged by the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party. Police said the operation was aimed at preventing violence and denied it was a warning to Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), which begins two weeks of mass action on Tuesday. The white-led government has put 500,000 reserves on military stand-by for the ANC protest campaign, which is aimed at forcing the government to speed up the transition to multi-racial democracy.

Civil rights leader leaves pulpit

ANTILANTA (AP) — The Rev. Joseph Lowery, one of the founding ministers of the 1960s civil rights movement, retired from the pulpit Sunday with an angry sermon targeting government indifference as the cause of America's social woes. "It is not our economy we need to be worried about. What's imperilled today in America is her soul," Father Lowery told about 1,500 people who packed into Cascade United Methodist Church. "We can deal with the economy. If we lose our souls, what, then, is there for us? There is no sanctuary for the soul from the sorrow of the society in which we live," he said. Father Lowery accused the Bush administration of inattentiveness to domestic concerns, citing its failure to encourage industry to create jobs in America, rather than overseas, and its reluctance to extend jobless benefits. Father Lowery, 70, has reached the mandatory retirement age for United Methodist ministers. He had been pastor at Cascade for six years. He was among the ministers who, with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., helped found the group in 1957.

Thousands join in show of L.A. unity

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Thousands of people joined hands and formed a human chain of prayer and song Sunday in south central Los Angeles to show solidarity and bring back hope to the riot-scarred city. "We want to that peace and unity is part of this community," said M. Lowe, 50, of Los Angeles, as he joined hands in one stretch of the chain that linked about 200 churches. The congregation sang "We Shall Overcome" and waved peace signs to oncoming traffic. Church bells rang. Motorists showed their support by honking their horns. Sunday's event, billed as "Hands across L.A. all people. One city," was sponsored by the Interfaith Council to heal L.A. and include representatives from more than one hundred churches and temples throughout southern California. Participants included people of many races. Organisers estimated that 10,000 people participated. Police said they didn't have a crowd estimate.

Attacks mount on Colombian oil facilities

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian rebels have caused millions of dollars in damage by attacking oil facilities, but security forces have designed counter-insurgency plans, an official said in a report published on Sunday. Andres Restrepo, president of the state-run oil company Ecopetrol, told the Bogota daily El Espectador that 24 bombings and attacks on the main oil pipeline this year had forced the company to stop exporting crude while repairs were undertaken. The attacks have spilled 80,000 barrels of crude oil and forced the company to suspend pumping 1.8 million barrels, Restrepo said. Attacks this year by Marxist rebels on the oil industry have cost local governments at least \$2.6 billion in lost tax revenue, and oil companies have spent \$1.8 billion to repair and clean up the damage, Mr. Restrepo said.

Army takes blame for Sind massacre

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (R) — The Pakistani army on Sunday admitted responsibility for the deaths of nine villagers in Sind province and removed commanders from their posts. An army spokesman said the killings, near the central Sind town of Jamshoro on June 5 at the start of a crackdown on crime, were the act of an individual army major now in custody and facing an inquiry. Vice-Chief of General Staff Major-General Jamshed Malik told reporters at army headquarters at Rawalpindi that three senior commanders in the area were removed on Sunday. He said the death of three men in army custody in Sind since the military operation began this month was a "very odd coincidence" but he denied that the interrogators were harsh. "Maybe the fear of the military was too much (for them)," he said.

Japanese aid worker shot dead in Pakistan

TOKYO (R) — A gunman has shot dead a Japanese U.N. aid worker outside his Pakistan home, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Monday. Kimio Kasahima, 38, was shot as he was about to get into his car in Peshawar, northern Pakistan, on Sunday. He died immediately after arriving at a hospital, the spokesman said. Mr. Kasahima was an automotive engineer working for a U.N. programme which coordinates humanitarian and economic aid for Afghan refugees. No group had claimed responsibility for the killing, the ministry spokesman said, adding that the killer had not yet been found.

'White House warned of dangers of Panama trip'

LOS ANGELES (R) — U.S. security officials warned the White House more than a week earlier that President George Bush faced serious danger if he carried out plans to speak at a rally in Panama and urged him to cancel the appearance, the Los Angeles Times reported on Sunday. But the warning was disregarded because Mr. Bush's advisers wanted him to enjoy favourable publicity to offset negative news coming from the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, where he was criticised for refusing to sign environmental treaties, U.S. sources told the newspaper. Instead, American television viewers watched Mr. Bush and his wife being rushed off a platform in Panama City on Thursday amid cloudsw of teargas fired at anti-American demonstrators by police never trained in riot control. As they fled, Mr. Bush and his wife Barbara coughed and wiped their eyes. One military expert told the times that within 72 hours of being told of Mr. Bush's travel plans, the U.S. military's Panama-based southern command sent a message to the Pentagon saying it would be unsafe for him to speak in public.

Rash of hotel fires worries New York

NEW YORK (R) — Concerned authorities are investigating a rash of suspicious fires in hotels just a month before the Democratic Party convention brings thousands of visitors to New York. In the latest incident — the 10th in a week — fire engines were called on Sunday evening to a room blaze at the high-rise Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers hours before apparent Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton was to speak there. Sprinklers quickly put out the blaze and no injuries were reported. "Hotel fires in this city are not unusual," fire chief William Feehan said at the Sheraton Hotel. "... But to have this number of them that we deem suspicious in such a short space of time clearly is a matter for our concern."

Perot to study equal rights amendment

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) — Ross Perot told Nebraskans gathered for a telephone hookup at the state capitol Sunday that he supports the idea of equal rights for women, but is not sure that a constitutional amendment is needed. When asked whether he favours the equal rights amendment, Mr. Perot said he supports the concept of equal rights but needs more time to examine the issue. "I tell you what I'll do. As soon as I hang up, I'll study it," Mr. Perot said. Mr. Perot, who is preparing an independent run for the White House, spoke for about 15 minutes to 250 supporters gathered on the steps of the Capitol. He then took questions for about 15 minutes.

COLUMN

Britons get chance to play weekend PoWs

LONDON (R) — A British businessman is providing a bizarre weekend for people who want to play at being prisoners of war (PoWs), complete with work parties, roll calls and escapes. The event, at a former royal air force base in Hampshire, is the idea of entrepreneur Mike Lowe who described it as a "fun weekend." Guests will be able to hire war-time uniforms for their two days behind bars. The parts of the camp guards will be played by members of a battle re-enactment society. Mr. Lowe calls his pretend prison camp "Buttle." A play on the German word for II prisoner-of-war camp Colditz and Britain's popular Budins holiday centres.

Crossing Atlantic in pedal boat

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland (R) — A former U.S. navy diver set out on Sunday in an eight-metre kayak in a bid to become the first person to use pedal power to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Dwight Collins, 34, of Noroton, Connecticut, began the 3,105-kilometre journey from St. John's Newfoundland, with plans to reach Plymouth, England, in 40 to 50 days. The 400-kg boat is made out of a combination of fibreglass, carbon fibre and cedar. It has no engine or sails and is powered by foot pedals that drive a propeller. Mr. Collins has trained for three years for the journey.

Ershad punished for breaking jail code

DHAKA (AP) — Imprisoned former President Mohammad Ershad has been barred from seeing his wife and children for 28 days because he broke jail regulations, officials said Monday. The penalty was imposed Sunday after police found an unauthorised cassette deck in Mr. Ershad's two-room cell last week at Dhaka central jail, where he is serving a 13-year sentence on weapons and corruption charges, the officials said. The former general seized power in 1982 and resigned after a pro-democracy uprising in 1990. He faces other corruption and abuse-of-power charges. Jail officials acknowledged the suspension of visits was a "token punishment" because Mr. Ershad, 62, saw his wife and two children Friday and another visit is not scheduled for 30 days.

Sex-case Australian bishop to retire

CANBERRA (R) — The Australian Catholic's Anglican Bishop Owen Dowling, facing charges of soliciting for prostitution, will retire by the end of the year, according to a statement quoted by the Australian Associated Press. Bishop Dowling, a leading figure in a campaign to ordain women priests in Australia, has not yet appeared in court and no plea has been taken. Bishop for 19 years, he attempted to resign in February but the ceremony was blocked by legal action brought by opponents within the church. He faces a charge of soliciting a person to prostitute himself in a public place after an alleged incident in a park in Bendigo in the state of Victoria in April. The AAP newswatch quoted a statement issued by his spokeswoman as saying he was retiring because of stress resulting from the charges and controversy over women's ordination.

Driving test failure linked to man's death

SEOUL (